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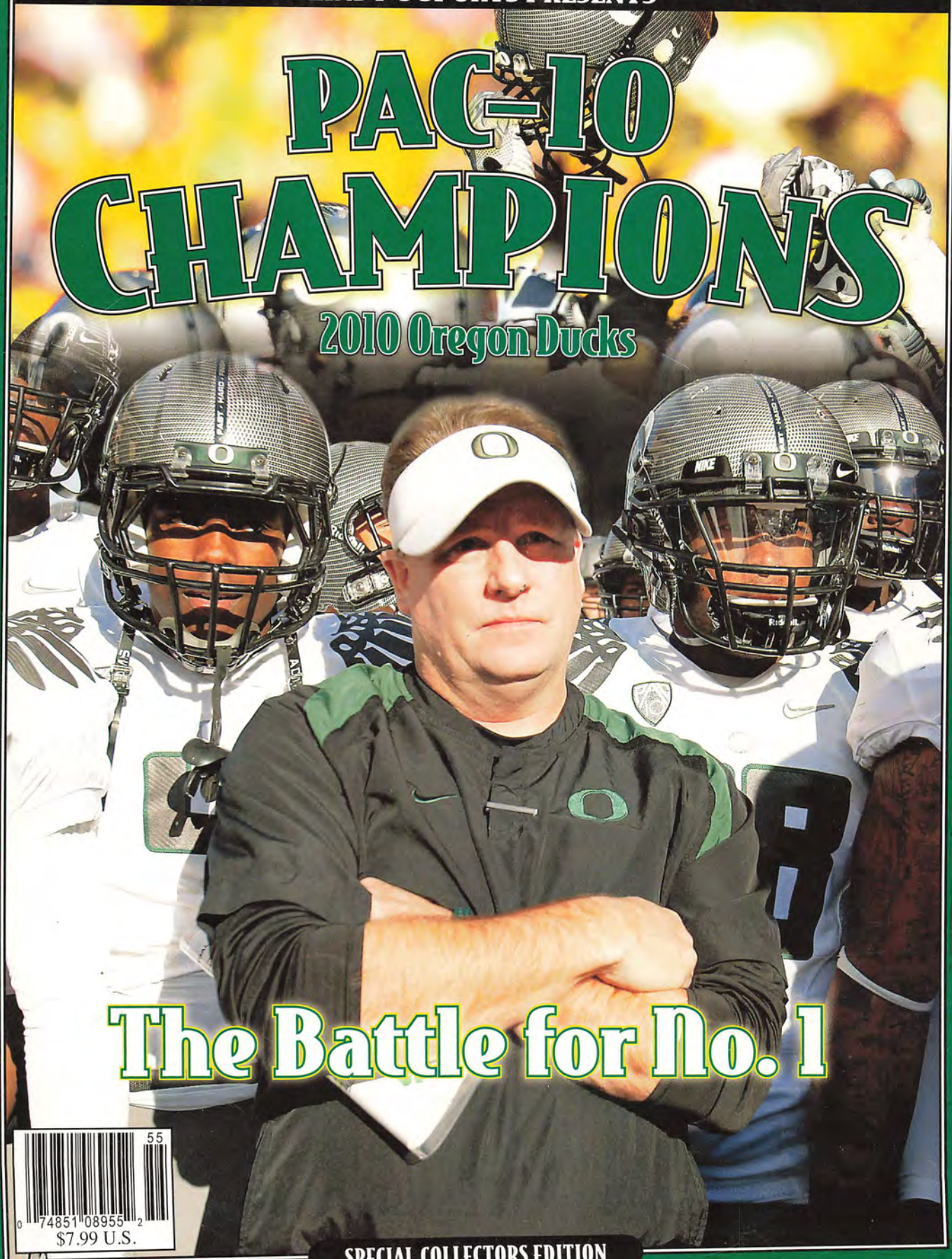
2010 Oregon Ducks



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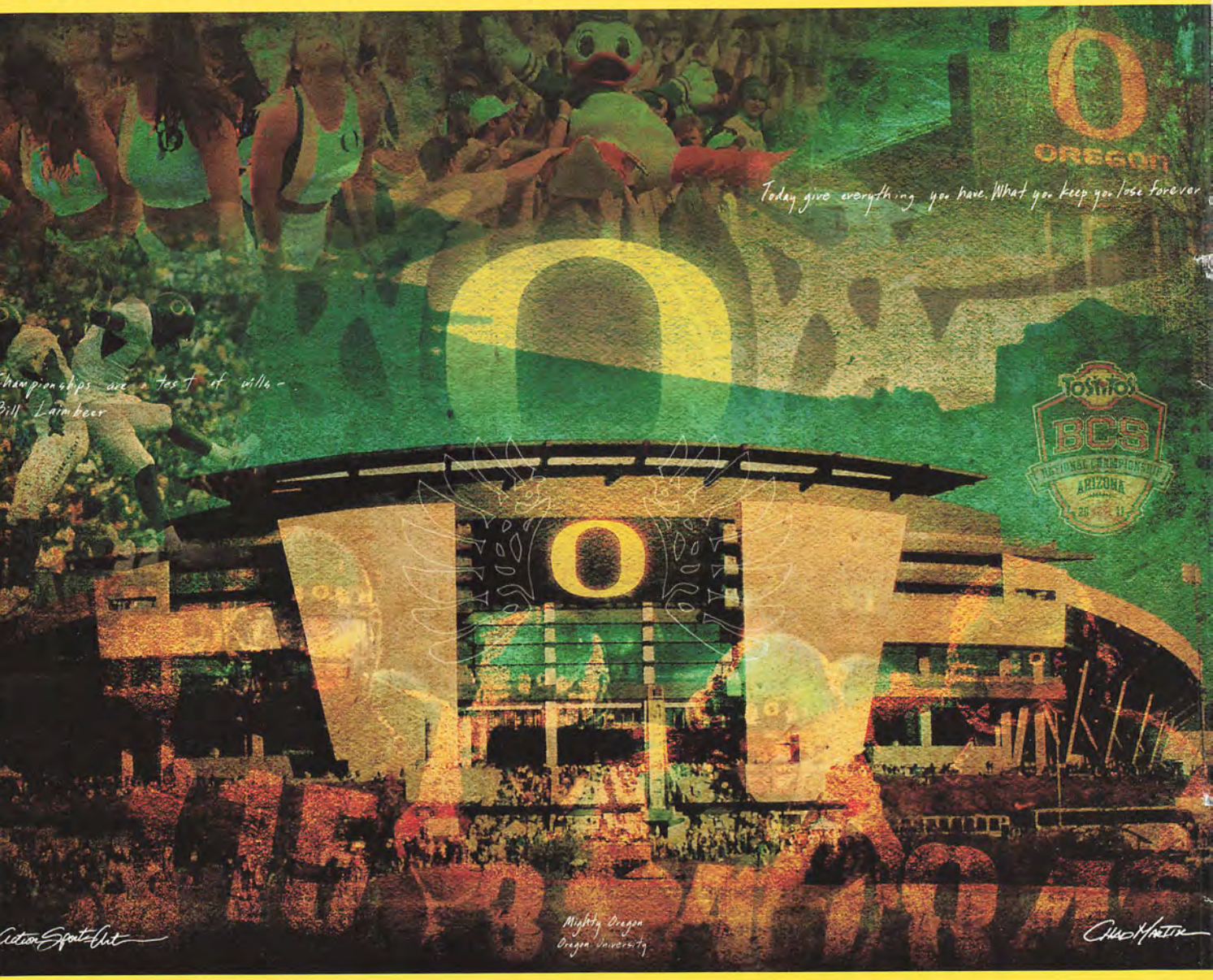

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PAC-10 CHAMPIONS

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DUCKS UNLIMITED

A History of Oregon Football

In Eugene, It's a Need For Speed

By Roland Lazenby

Look at them, would ya? Actually, you might be able to get a good gander at the Oregon Ducks if you could only get 'em to slow down long enough. As it is, they're mostly a green and yellow blur. Thank goodness they wear bright colors. Otherwise we might never see 'em. Not really.

They move that fast.

The smoke from their Civil War victory over Oregon State had barely cleared when the engine revving began again for Chip Kelly's hot rod of a football team, which probably now as we speak sits idling in the parking lot, cylinders pumping at a low rumble and rarin' to go.

Yes, Kelly's Ducks are undefeated, the No. 2 major college football team in the country, and they can't wait until the BCS National Championship Game January 10 to crank up their fancy machine so they can roll right over the Auburn Tigers like so much roadkill on their way to proving once and for all that they're the unequalled No. 1.

What's the big news in all of that?

Not much, except maybe that nobody's surprised, at least not anyone who's seen the Ducks get it on this season.

These days, when folks talk about the Ducks, they're not discussing them as a mere football team, but more as a revolution for the ages.

Yep, Kelly's club is the fastest thing on cleats, a furious force of New Fangled football that rocketed through the 2010 schedule, pausing only long enough to fuss that the sideline gangs weren't moving the chains fast enough to keep up with the offense, which likes to crank off plays at the pace of one every 13 seconds or so.

With Kelly's offensive wizardry, the Ducks have gone through opponents like a short order cook goes through handi-wipes. Like a drag bike goes through STP. Like a sky diver goes through clean underwear. Like … well, you get the picture.

Ducks fans in Autzen Stadium's concrete bowl routinely found themselves irked during the season and booing at foes faking injuries in a vain attempt to slow down the onslaught.

After all, this is Eugene where the Need For Speed once drove Steve Prefontaine, where Nike found its footing, so to speak, and now where football looks more like a relay race, the kind that just may have the likes of Amos Alonzo Stagg and Knute Rockne and Walter Camp sitting up in their graves and taking notice. If that's the case, then Fielding Yost, coach of Michigan's 1901 "point a minute" team, must be kicking back in gridiron heaven and grinning like a chimpanzee.

"Some people call it a no-huddle offense, but I call it a no-breathing

offense," Oregon offensive lineman Mark Asper told a *New York Times* writer who had come to town to marvel at the phenomenon. "It's still football. We hit people. But after a while, the guys on the other side of the line are so gassed that you don't have to hit them very hard to make them fall over."

It's just the kind of talk that has Ducks fans gassed for the national title game. They're thinking they could get used to that kind of high hopes.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?

Let's be honest. It's a rare thing for the Ducks to challenge for a national championship in a major collegiate sport.

Their only real splash in that regard came with the very first NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament played way back in 1939.

In those days, the Ducks were an early trendsetter, playing an ambitious schedule and using a dominant inside game. Coach Howard "Hobby" Hobson's team was tall by 1939 standards, with 6-8 Slim Wintermute at center, and two 6-4 1/2" forwards — Laddie Gale and John Dick. Their fans nicknamed them "The Tall Firs."

With their height and the experience their schedule brought them, the Firs moved past Texas, 56-41, and Oklahoma, 55-37, to earn a spot in that original tournament, what would come to be called basketball's Final Four.

Patton Gym at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, was the site of that first NCAA championship on Friday, March 27, 1939. The game drew about 5,000 spectators who saw 5-8 guard Bobby Anet push Oregon to the first NCAA championship. The Firs led 21-16 at the half, then used their inside advantage to win, 46-33.

During the game, Anet crashed into the courtside trophy table while chasing a loose ball and broke the championship trophy. It's not clear if the smashed trophy brought the Ducks 70-odd years of bad national championship kharma, but you might make a case for it.

EARLY DAYS

Their long journey to football prominence all began back in 1893, during the gaslight days and gay times, when the games were rough affairs of pushing and punching. They looked more like rugby matches than the modern football we know.

The ball was fat and round, suited for kicking or tucking under the arm, certainly not for passing. The field was long and wide. And rough. The players were small, but they exhibited a rakish toughness. They disdained padding as something for sissies. Rather than wear helmets, they grew their hair long to pad their heads when they smacked skulls.

The people who played "foot ball" were often considered goons and roughnecks. It seemed that someone was always writing a treatise defending the healthful aspects of the sport. Yet the games themselves were filled with bloodied noses, broken bones and even an occasional fatality that scandalized Victorian sensibilities.

Society itself in the 1890s remained very much in the clutches of the 19th century. Most families still lived on farms, and even the typical city resident owned a cow. Commercial moving pictures had yet to be developed; the airplane and automobile were just designers' dreams.

But the Ducks were playing football. Perhaps it was because he hadn't gotten a feel for the new game yet, but Coach Cal Young scheduled their first contest in the spring, on March 24, 1894, six months before the season officially started. That worked, because his early Ducks defeated Albany College, 44-2.

Playing out of season may have had some consequences, because Young retired after that first victory, yielding the whistle to J.A. Church who finished out the season with two losses and a tie. The next year Oregon won all four of its games under head coach Percy Benson.

Five years later, in 1899, the program mustered the moxie to leave the state for the first time, to play California's Golden Bears in Berkeley, Calif.

By the turn of the century, college football had established only a little of the identity that eventually would make it popular for American masses. Teams in those days before the forward pass had three downs to make five yards. Touchdowns counted four points; kicks after touchdowns were worth two, and a field goal counted five. The level of finesse wasn't high. Despite football's movement away from rugby, the games still featured mostly a mass of players pushing and shoving each other.

As such, games of the era could be given to mismatches. Thus, Oregon's largest margin of victory came in 1910 when the Ducks defeated the University of Puget Sound, 115-0.

For the 1916 season, Oregon went 5-0-1, under head coach Hugo Bezdek. They shut out all their opponents except Cal. First was a 97-0 win over Willamette University, then a scoreless tie with Washington. A larger margin of victory over

Photo by Vernon Biever/Wirelmage

Norm Van Brocklin led Oregon to the Cotton Bowl after the 1948 season.

Cal gave the Ducks the tiebreaker that sent them to the nascent Rose Bowl that year. Oregon's first trip to Pasadena came on January 1, 1917, and the Ducks upset heavily favored University of Pennsylvania, 14-0. Oregon returned to the Rose Bowl at the end of the 1919 season, but lost to Harvard, 7-6.

For the next three decades the Ducks won a lot of good games, enough to have an an overall winning record, but not enough to merit another trip to Pasadena. In fact, they didn't go to any bowl until the 1948 season when they played Southern Methodist in the Cotton Bowl as co-champions of the old Pacific Coast Conference.

CASANOVA AND FREI

Ducks football gained an upgrade of sorts in 1951 when Len Casanova left the University of Pittsburgh to take over an Oregon team that had gone 1-9 the year before.

By 1954, Casanova had built a team with a winning record. He would also lead his team to a 10-7 loss against top-ranked Ohio State in the Rose Bowl after the 1957 season. In all, he would lead the Ducks to two more bowl games before stepping up to become the school's AD in 1966.

During his tenure, he coached NFL Hall of Fame members Mel Renfro and Dave Wilcox and had an array of assistant coaches — George Seifert, John McKay and John Robinson — who went on to prominence in the game. Casanova ended his career with a record of 82-73-8, the most wins by an Oregon coach at that time.

His assistant, Jerry Frei, succeeded Casanova but found few highlights over the years. His teams never played in a bowl, but Frei coached NFL Hall of Famer Dan Fouts. Frei's 1970 club managed a legendary comeback against UCLA, scoring 20 points in the final four minutes of the game to beat the Bruins, 41-40.

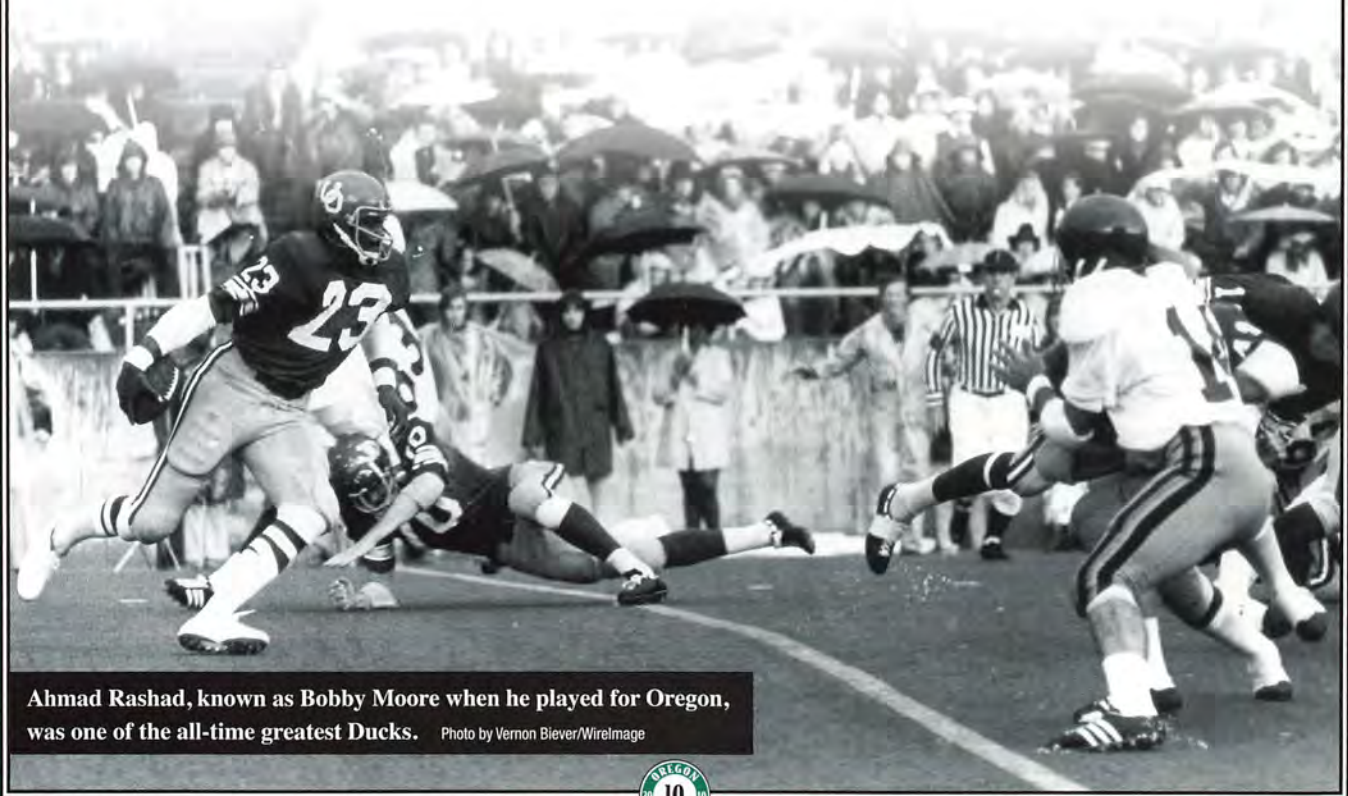
BROOKS

Rich Brooks followed Frei as head coach in 1977 and had just two winning seasons over the next seven years. His team posted an 8-4 record in 1989, a finish rewarded with a trip to the Independence Bowl. Brooks would take the Ducks to two more bowl games before his final season in 1994. That year, his Ducks were the Pacific-10 Conference champions with a 9-3 regular season record and a Rose Bowl appearance, which they lost to Penn State. That season is remembered for "The Pick" against the ninth-ranked Washington Huskies. The Ducks were leading 24-20, and Washington was driving to take the lead when the Huskies' quarterback Damon Huard threw an interception to Kenny Wheaton who returned it for a 97-yard "pick six," sealing the win for the Ducks. It would be only the fourth time in 20 seasons that Oregon beat the Huskies. Brooks tenure, in fact, left a trail of heartbreaking losses.

BELLOTTI

Mike Bellotti, Brooks' offensive coordinator, took over the program in 1995 and stepped up both the expectations and the results. His first team went 9-3 and earned a spot in the Cotton Bowl. The next season was another winner for Bellotti's Ducks, but they weren't invited to dance at the bowls. From then on, however, bowls became a regular feature of Oregon football.

Bellotti coached his first Pac-10 championship team in 2000, a title shared with Washington and Oregon State. Oregon



Ahmad Rashad, known as Bobby Moore when he played for Oregon, was one of the all-time greatest Ducks. Photo by Vernon Biever/WireImage

Photo by

Joey Harrington was Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year in 2001.

beat 8th-ranked UCLA and 6th-ranked Washington that year and nipped Arizona State, 56-55, after the Sun Devils failed to convert a two-point attempt in double overtime. After losing the Civil War, the Ducks whipped the Texas Longhorns, 35-30, in the Holiday Bowl for the first 10-win season in program history.

For 2001, quarterback Joey Harrington, a Heisman Trophy finalist, drove the Ducks to their first 11-win season and the Pac-10 championship, earning himself in the process the nickname "Captain Comeback." The Ducks finished with the No. 2 ranking in both the AP and Coaches polls, but they finished fourth in the BCS rankings. They hammered Colorado in the Fiesta Bowl, 38-15, as Harrington passed for 350 yards.

After going 7-5 in 2002 and losing to Wake Forest in the Seattle Bowl, Oregon finished 8-5 in 2003 with a trip to the Sun Bowl. The Ducks finished the 2004 season 5-6, but then rebounded in 2005, going 10-1 in the regular season with the sole loss to top-ranked Southern Cal, but lost the Holiday Bowl to the Oklahoma Sooners.

They went 7-5 in 2006 and got pounded by BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 38-8.

Kelly came to Eugene in 2007 as Bellotti's offensive coordinator, and the rest is a tale of speed and more speed. The Ducks opened 2007 going 8-1, while averaging 46.6 points over the first seven games. The wins included a 39-7 pasting of Michigan and a rapid rise in the polls.

Fifth-ranked Oregon beat USC, 24-17, then defeated the sixth-ranked Arizona State Sun Devils to move to the No. 2 national ranking. Just when it appeared the Ducks were headed to a national championship, they lost three quarterbacks — Dennis Dixon, Nate Costa and Brady Leaf — to injuries and wound up beating the South Florida Bulls in the Sun Bowl, 56-21.

The 2008 season brought more quarterback injuries — to Costa, Justin Roper and Jeremiah Masoli —as Oregon lost three games during the season and beat Oklahoma State in the Holiday Bowl to finish with a Top 10 ranking in both major polls.

KELLY

It was in December of 2008, before the Holiday Bowl, that Bellotti named Kelly the next head coach and stepped up to athletic director. Bellotti had amassed 116 wins and a .678 winning percentage in his time.

Things didn't start well for Kelly, with an 11-point loss to Boise State that featured Ducks running back LeGarrette Blount punching BSU's Byron Hout on national television. Still, Kelly's first team lost just two games on its way to the 2010 Rose Bowl, where Ohio State bested the Ducks, 26-17.

Hopes seemed dashed for 2010 when Kelly suspended starting quarterback Jeremiah Masoli over allegations of theft from a local fraternity house. Kelly later kicked Masoli out of the program after a marijuana charge.

It only proved that Kelly knows not only speed, but discipline, too.

Folks in Eugene are banking that soon the football team will match the basketball program's national title from 1939.

This time, though, they don't want to break the crystal football trophy, just the sound barrier.

Roland Lazenby is the author of "Jerry West, The Life And Legend Of A Basketball Icon," released this year by ESPN Books.

Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images

Mike Bellotti

QUACK ATTACK

Oregon Ducks Year in Review

By Ben Cook

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

The 2010 Oregon football team opened the season with a lot of anticipation coming off the 2009 Pac-10 championship and with 27 players returning with starting experience.

The Ducks were picked to repeat as league champions at the Pac-10 Football Media Days and were ranked No. 11 in both the Associated Press and *USA Today* Coaches polls.

Running back LaMichael James was back after a sensational freshman season when he rushed for over 100 yards in each of nine games and totaled 1,546 yards and 14 touchdowns. The top five leading receivers were back along with the top three tacklers and the top two interception leaders.

The only negative was the loss of quarterback Jeremiah Masoli, who threw for 15 touchdowns and rushed for 13 more in 2009. Replacing Masoli would be sophomore Darron Thomas, coming off a redshirt season.

The Ducks opened the season against New Mexico but were without the services of James and placekicker Rob Beard, both of whom sat out one-game suspensions. It hardly mattered, as Oregon rolled up 720 yards of total offense in posting a 72-0 win.

Kenjon Barner stepped in and filled James' shoes with 147 yards rushing and scored five touchdowns, four rushing and another on a 60-yard scoring reception.

"I've been saying all along, I think he's the most underrated player in the country," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "Today he got a chance to shine. We've always felt that we've had 1A and 1B. We run the ball 40 times a game; one guy is not going to get all the carries."

Eric Solis filled in for Beard and drilled three field goals of 24, 29 and 30 yards. Cornerback Cliff Harris set a single-game and season records with two punt returns for 61- and 64-yard touchdowns.

Thomas, who appeared in five games as a true freshman in 2008, made his first career start and responded with 220 yards on 13-of-23 passing. He tossed two touchdown passes and was picked off once.

In the second game of the season, Oregon made a cross-country flight to take on the Tennessee Vols in Neyland Stadium in Knoxville before a crowd of 102,035 fans. It was a game that was delayed an hour and 10 minutes by a lightning storm. Tennessee was playing for new coach Derek Dooley and the Vols came out fired up, taking a 13-3 lead late in the second quarter. But in what was going to become a tradition for the Ducks, the second half was all Oregon. After tying the game in the final three minutes of the first half, Oregon outscored the Vols 35-0 in the second half for a convincing 48-13 win.

The win was Oregon's third straight over teams from the Southeastern Conference and its fifth consecutive win east of the Rocky Mountains.

Oregon went to 3-0 with a 69-0 win over Portland State, as the Ducks prepared for the Pac-10 season. James logged a career high 227 yards on just 14 carries and scored two touchdowns.

Photo Steve Dykes/Getty Images

"I had a lot of yards, yeah, but I didn't really play that well," James said.

The Ducks opened the Pac-10 season at Arizona State and faced a difficult challenge when the Sun Devils held the vaunted Oregon ground game in check, putting the burden of winning the game squarely on the shoulders of Thomas. He responded by hitting 19 of 33 passes for 260 yards and a touchdown.

"They forced us to do some things, but I thought Darron made some plays when he really had to," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said.

Arizona State led 24-14 in the second quarter, but Oregon scored two touchdowns in the final two and a half minutes of the first half to take a lead the Ducks never surrendered.

Another stiff test waited in the fifth game of the season when the ninth-ranked Stanford Cardinal came to Autzen Stadium and jumped ahead 21-3 in the first quarter. But the Ducks never panicked.

"We knew we just had to find a way to overcome the deficit," said James, who finished with 257 yards and three touchdowns. "We were down, but we always feel that something will eventually happen for us. We practice fast and feel confident with the tempo that we play and it eventually worked for us. We don't care how much we're down early. We feel that if we're in the game in the second quarter, we can win the game."

Oregon came back and cut the lead to seven at halftime, 31-24, but again in the second half when the up-tempo Oregon offense wore down the Stanford defense, the Ducks came back and outscored the Cardinal 28-0 for a 52-31 win to go 5-0 on the season.

The Ducks were steadily climbing up the polls. After beating Washington State to go 6-0, the Ducks were expected to move up to No. 2 after an upset of top-ranked Alabama. That didn't necessarily sit well with Chip Kelly,

"Why would I be No. 2?" Kelly said. "I don't care. I could care less about that."

There was a scary moment in the game when Barner was injured on a kickoff return and taken from the field in an ambulance.

"I thought our guys were pretty focused after that. Injuries are part of the games and you have to deal with 'em," Kelly said. "It's just tough when you have injuries like that and there is an ambulance that comes on the field, but I thought our kids did a pretty good job handling it after that."

Barner spent the night in the hospital as a precaution, but he was not seriously

Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

injured and returned to play the next game against UCLA.

Against the Cougars, Cliff Harris returned his third punt of the season for a touchdown.

By the time UCLA came to town, the Ducks were ranked No. 1 in the polls. The Bruins were no match for Oregon, losing 60-13.

"It doesn't matter about Number 1," said James. "We don't care what the outside world thinks of us being Number 1 or Number 2. We just have to win."

Linebacker Casey Matthews was excited about the Ducks' high ranking.

"It's a big thing; it's exciting. We just have to show that we're deserving of Number 1," he said. "We just go out and play our normal game. That's just how we treat it; ranking shouldn't matter. The coaches do a great job of keeping our heads level."

But there would continue to be a pressure cooker as Oregon and Auburn emerged as the top two teams in the BCS rankings. The national spotlight would just get brighter with each passing week for the Ducks.

When Oregon steamrolled USC, the nation was watching the Ducks closely.

The Trojans teased people waiting on Oregon to lose by taking a 32-29 third-quarter lead. But, as has always seemed to be the case, even the Trojans wore down in the face of the unrelenting Oregon offense.

James wound up with 239 yards and three touchdowns. Thomas threw four touchdown passes, three of which went to Jeff Maehl as Oregon took a 53-32 win.

"We have a tendency to wear people down," said Kelly. "I'm not into statements. I'm just into winning games."

The Washington Huskies came to Autzen Stadium for the ninth game of the season and the Ducks started slowly. Very slowly. For the first time this season, they didn't score in the first quarter and didn't score a touchdown until there was 5:15 left in the first half. But then the points came in bunches.

Oregon scored almost at will the rest of the way as James scored three touchdowns. Thomas scored two touchdowns rushing and another passing, and Barner finished the scoring with a 30-yard run.

"You don't get a trophy after halftime. You don't get a trophy after the third quarter. ... We don't look at the scoreboard until the end of the game," said Kelly about the Ducks slow start.

Oregon had been winning with offense most of the season, but when the Ducks went to Berkeley to face Cal, the defense had to rise up and win one.

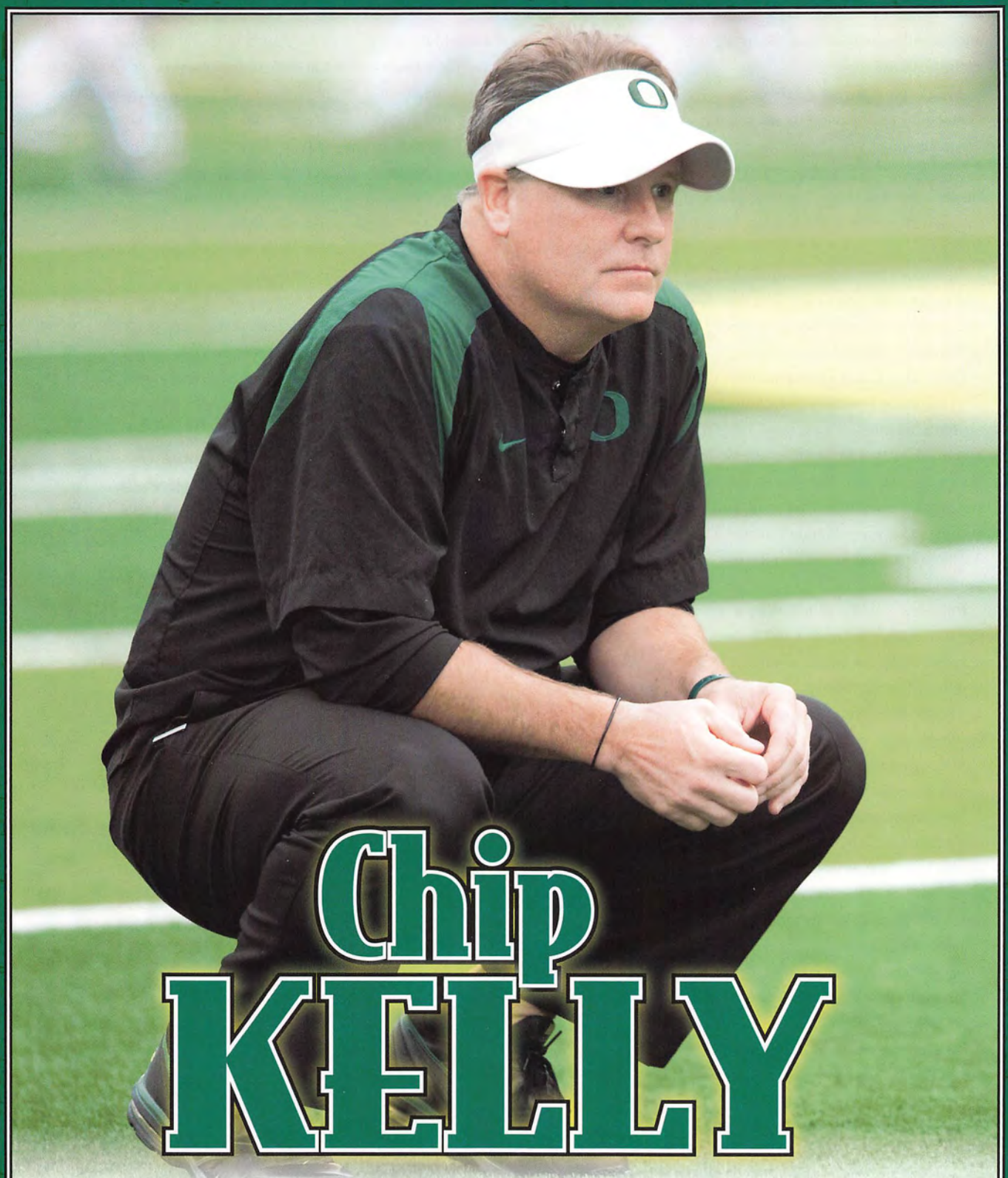
Oregon got just one offensive touchdown — a 29-yard pass from Thomas to Maehl — and Harris returned a punt 64-yards for a score. So the defense came up big, but perhaps the biggest play of the game was a false start on Cal placekicker Giorgio Tavecchio when he kicked a 24-yard field goal that would have given Cal a 16-15 lead early in the fourth quarter. After a five-yard penalty, Tavecchio missed from 29 yards and Oregon remained undefeated.

"It feels really good to come through for the offense this time," said Matthews. "We did pretty good, but we should do that every week, no matter what the offense does."

Oregon clinched at least a share of the Pac-10 championship for the second year in a row and a BCS bid when the Ducks downed Arizona, who also took a halftime lead before Oregon ran away for a 48-29 win.

Oregon locked up the Pac-10 championship and a berth in the BCS Championship Game with a 37-20 Civil War win over Oregon State, a fitting end to an outstanding season.

Photo by Louis Lopez/Cal Sport Media



Chip KELLY

Former Oregon Coordinator Crowton Found a Gem in Kelly

By Matt Lowe

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Isn't it funny how things work out?

In the winter of 2007 just days after former Oregon offensive coordinator Gary Crowton left Eugene to accept the same position at LSU, it was announced that Chip Kelly was going to be then-head coach Mike Bellotti's choice as the Ducks new offensive coordinator.

Ironically, it was a trip to Oregon's campus just a few short months before that helped cement Kelly's status within the Ducks football program. The Manchester, New Hampshire native had a relationship with Crowton dating back to Gary's coaching days at New Hampshire (1988-90), and he wanted to find out more about what Oregon was doing with its spread offense during the Wildcats offseason. He also got a chance to briefly meet Bellotti, who was aware of Kelly's familiarity with the Ducks offense due to his relationship with Crowton.

"Chip and I have known each other for a lot of years," Crowton said. "I think I met him back in 1990 when I was at New Hampshire and since that time we've stayed in contact every year, mostly working on football. When I've gone to different places, he's always come to visit me; when I was with the (Chicago) Bears, BYU and at Louisiana Tech. And so, when I was at the University of Oregon, coach Bellotti brought me in and I put in this spread offense that they are running now.

"I got a lot of thoughts in the passing game from where I've been, and then the running game, I got a lot of thoughts from Utah. Chip was running the same running game at New Hampshire, and he asked if he could come visit me at Oregon. He talked to me a lot about what they were doing, and I talked to him a lot about what we were doing and we were on the same page.

"When I got the job at LSU, I knew (Oregon) wanted to continue to run the spread, and I just thought Chip had done a great job. In fact, I followed his last year at New Hampshire closely, so I recommended him to Coach Bellotti. I introduced him to our offensive line coach first. Then, I introduced him to Coach Bellotti and said, 'This is the guy you need to hire.'"

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

In Kelly's initial year as the Ducks play-caller, the results were immediate. Oregon led the Pac-10 in scoring (38.1 ypg) and total offense (467.5 ypg) and amassed the most yards in school history. In Year Two under Kelly, Oregon again led the conference in scoring (41.9 ppg) and total offense (484.8 ypg), while also besting a number of school records set during Chip's first year.

It was a sign of things to come.

On March 13, 2009, Bellotti stepped down as the Ducks head man and Kelly was named his successor. The move not only signaled a new era in Oregon football, but the jump to a head coaching gig was a huge accomplishment for Kelly, who had been a relatively unknown commodity while his offenses were setting records at New Hampshire.

In Kelly's first year as the head coach, Oregon finished with a 10-3 record, won the Pac-10 and earned a Rose Bowl berth. The Ducks did so behind a fast-paced, run-oriented offense — a staple under Kelly — that ended the year rushing for 231.7 ypg (sixth nationally). Oregon also owned the nation's eighth-ranked scoring offense (36.1 ppg) and 33rd-ranked total offense (412.0 ypg), which maintained the Ducks offensive dominance under Kelly's guidance.

In addition to winning the conference in just his first season on the job, Kelly was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year. He became just the second Ducks head coach (Rich Brooks) to earn the honor.

Entering the 2010 season, things weren't so clear for Kelly and Oregon's offense. Although all five offensive linemen and a slew of playmakers returned, including dynamic tailback LaMichael James, a starting quarterback had to be found after Jeremiah Masoli was dismissed from the team in June for off-field issues.

So what did Kelly do? He inserted sophomore Darron Thomas into the mix after he beat out Nate Costa for the starting job and has looked like a genius ever since. Thomas has proven to be one of the top playmakers in college football from his quarterback spot, but his decision-making and leadership skills are a big reason why Oregon is 12-0 and headed to Glendale, Arizona to play in the BCS National Championship Game.

"Darron's special," Kelly said about his QB following Oregon's 48-29 win over Arizona. "He keeps getting better each game."

Another reason for the Ducks' offensive success is the pace and simplicity of their spread attack. Oregon averages a snap every 13 seconds, which allows Kelly's offense to continuously keep opponents off-balance.

"I think the biggest thing is that he is very simple, especially in the run game," Crowton said. "He knows what he wants. The tempo that he uses — they get those plays off, as far as my studies go in about 13 seconds per play — the way he communicates with the signs on the sideline, the ease of the line and everybody knowing what they are doing is outstanding."

So in just his second season, Kelly has a chance to do what no Oregon coach has ever done: win a national title. And who could've known that a guy who came to Eugene looking to improve his Division I-AA team by watching a longtime friend at work would now be leading Oregon to a potential national championship just four years later.

Yep, it's funny how things work out. But when all is said and done, Crowton may be an unsung hero if Oregon wins the whole enchilada. After all, he helped bring Kelly to Eugene. Doesn't that count for something?

"He's just done a great job there," Crowton said. "Everything we started there, he's just magnified so much more. He's added a tempo that has been outstanding and it's just fun to watch him."

HIGH OCTANE

Ducks' Fast-Paced Offense Wears Down Defenses

By Ben Cook

When Mike Bellotti named Chip Kelly as Oregon's offensive coordinator in 2007, he unleashed an offensive storm on the Pac-10.

Kelly's offensive philosophy was rather simple. He believed that whatever you could do on offense, you should do it well. And he believed you should do it as fast as you possibly could and as often as you could.

He believed that in the fourth quarter, the opposing defensive players should have their tongues hanging out and be exhausted from the sheer effort involved in stopping an offense that went at warp speed from the opening kickoff until the final whistle.

Kelly's first two offenses led the Pac-10 in total offense (467.5 yards per game in 2007 and 484.8 in 2008) and in scoring offense (38.15 points per game in 2007 and 41.9 in 2008).

When Bellotti retired to become athletic director in 2009, he named Kelly as the head coach. It was Kelly's first head coaching job and he immediately named Mark Helfrich as his quarterbacks coach. He knew that Helfrich was considered one of the rising stars in the world of offensive football and would continue to run the frenetic approach to offense that Kelly had employed.

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Helfrich, who was the quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator at Colorado, came in with the goal of improving the Ducks passing attack to further complement the noted Oregon ground game. Again, the Ducks offense dominated the Pac-10 in 2009 and in 2010.

The combination of Kelly and Helfrich has proven to be lethal to Pac-10 defenses.

What makes the Oregon offense so explosive is tempo. The Ducks don't do anything at half or even three-quarter speed. It is up-tempo all the time. Teams have been so desperate to try and slow down the Ducks that late in the 2010 season they started faking injuries just to slow down the game and give defenses a chance to catch their breath.

"We're just trying to play fast," Helfrich explains.

When Oregon fell behind Stanford 21-3 in the first quarter on Oct. 2, there was no panic because… well, because Oregon's offense is always a powder keg with a simmering fuse.

"We knew we just had to find a way to overcome the deficit," said running back LaMichael James. "We were down, but we always feel that something will eventually happen for us. We practice fast and feel confident with the tempo that we play and it eventually worked for us. We don't care how much we're down early. We feel that if we're in the game in the second quarter, we can win the game."

"We practice 100 plays per practice and it is up-tempo defense," explained linebacker Spencer Paysinger.

There's those words: "up-tempo" again. That approach is not lost on opponents who try to practice for the pace Oregon sets on offense, but they are just not able to do it in a week's time. Oregon goes at that pace every practice, every day, spring and fall and they are in better shape late in games.

When Oregon flew across the country to play Tennessee in the second game of the season, the Vols had a 13-3 lead late in the first half before Oregon wore them down and reeled off 45 unanswered points for a 48-13 win.

"What they do is they wear on you; they get you tired," said Tennessee coach Derek Dooley. "They've got special enough players to make you pay when they do that."

"That tempo they were going at kind of got at us and wore us down," said Vols defensive end Chris Walker.

Washington coach Steve Sarkisian conceded the tempo of the Oregon offense wore down his defense and hung 35-second half points on the board for a 53-16 victory.

"We were exhausted," he said. "We didn't help offensively. We couldn't sustain drives on offense to give our defense a rest. The game got in their control, just the way they like it. They can go fast and wear you out."

UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel had some thoughts on the way Oregon attacks on offense after watching the Ducks destroy the Bruins, 60-13.

"They were terrific tonight firing on all cylinders, their pace of play, and their quarterback was hitting almost everything. We were having a hard time keeping up," he said. "When you can spread the field like they do and then you can't get pressure on the quarterback, it's difficult to cover the width of the field as well as the depth of the field for as long as we were asked to. And so, they had us in that regard."

"We had answers to one or two offensive threats, but they just had more offense," said Bruins linebacker Sean Westgate.

Of course, practicing at an up-tempo pace all week doesn't hurt the offense, but it also helps to have weapons and one of the most surprising weapons is sophomore quarterback Darron Thomas. He made his first start in the season opener and has been the ignition that starts the offensive motor ever since.

"He is a leader every week. He leads our team every day," James says of Thomas. "When he throws a pick, he bounces back"

Of course, Thomas has plenty of help — an offensive line that blows holes open for James, Kenjon Barner, Remene Alston and protects the quarterback fiercely. When Thomas takes to the air, there are guys like Jeff Maehl, Josh Huff and D.J. Davis ready to make the big play.

The Ducks will showcase their offense in the BCS Championship Game, which might be the first time fans in the Eastern part of the country, who are usually in bed by the time Oregon plays, get to see the Ducks play live. And what do the Pac-10 champion Ducks hope the country sees in the championship game?

"I hope they see a team that plays hard and runs with a fast tempo," says tight end David Paulson.

That's what the Quack Attack is all about.

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

LaMichael James

Oregon's Record-Setting Tailback Plays Big Despite Size

By Matt Lowe

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

The age old idiom that dynamite comes in small packages fits Oregon tailback LaMichael James to a T.

The 5-9, 180-pound sophomore from Texarkana, Tex., is not only one of college football's top home run hitters due to his blinding speed and quickness, but he's also earned a reputation as a tough, hard-nosed runner that doesn't shy away from contact during his time as the Ducks' go-to back.

"He has all the things you look for in a running back," Oregon running backs coach Gary Campbell said. "He's got great speed, great cutting ability, great stop-and-go ability and the ability to run inside because of his power. He also has great hands. You name it, he can do it.

"He's one of the guys that's more or less a special guy in every phase of the game as far as running back talents are concerned."

After compiling 2,043 yards rushing and 26 touchdowns during his senior year at Liberty-Eylau High School, James committed to Oregon and head coach Chip Kelly in January of 2008. Kelly thought James could be a big-time weapon in the Ducks fast-paced, spread attack, which convinced the Lone Star State native to play his college ball in Eugene.

As it turned out, Kelly was right.

Following a redshirt year in his first season with the Ducks, James burst onto the scene by rushing for 1,546 yards and 14 touchdowns on 230 carries. He's the first Duck freshman to earn the team's Most Outstanding Player award, and he also became the first Oregon rookie to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season. He added 17 catches for 168 yards in the passing game, proving his versatility as a playmaker.

For his record-breaking efforts, James was named the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year. He was also selected as a third-team All-American by the *Sporting News* and Associated Press and was named the Freshman Performer of the Year by the College Football Performance Awards.

Entering the 2010 campaign, not many national pundits thought James — a Pac-10 All-Academic first-teamer — had a chance at repeating his remarkable freshman season, but that's all changed now. In Oregon's 48-29 win over Arizona, James not only bested his rushing totals of last season, he scored twice, giving him an Oregon single-season record of 19 TDs on the year. James also set a new Oregon single-season scoring mark with 120 points, passing former kicker Nathan Villegas, who had 117 points in 1998.

One of the big keys to James' success this season has been the play of his offensive line. The Ducks front five is not only one of the best in the country, but it's also one of the tallest, which keeps James hidden from defenders.

No. 21 tore the Cardinal defense up to the tune of 257 yards and three touchdowns on 31 carries, an average of 8.3 yards per carry.

"He definitely uses that size to kind of hide behind them (offensive line) at times, and sometimes they get in the way," Campbell said. "But he's one of those guys that if they (opposing defenses) give him a little crack, he'll come out the other side. I think that's what makes it difficult for defenses to locate him at times. He also has such great acceleration that if you don't see him coming, before you know it, he's gone."

James' most memorable game of the '10 season came against then-unbeaten Stanford in Week Five. No. 21 tore the Cardinal defense up to the tune of 257 yards and three touchdowns on 31 carries, an average of 8.3 yards per carry. It was the second time in three games that James had eclipsed the 200-yard mark. He also threw in 227 yards in a 69-0 win over Portland State.

Following the Ducks win over the Cardinal, James' began a run of four straight 100-yard rushing games. He racked up 136 yards and two scores against Washington State, 123 yards and two scores against UCLA, 239 yards and three scores against USC and 121 yards and three scores against Washington. And while he fell just short of the 100-yard plateau on the road at Cal (91 yards), he came back to post 126 yards and two TDs on 28 carries against Arizona.

Just two days after he ran through the Wildcats, James was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America Team. At 21, he became the youngest Oregon player since Mel Renfro (1962) to be awarded such a prestigious title. He is also the Ducks first All-America selection since defensive end Nick Reed (2008), and he became just the sixth Oregon tailback in school history to earn the distinction.

In addition to being named an All-American, James is also a finalist for the Doak Walker Award, given annually to the nation's best tailback, the Walter Camp Player of the Year Award and the Heisman Trophy. And while it may be a surprise to some that James has dominated the way he has, it's no surprise to Campbell, who thinks James is the best tailback he's had during his 28-year tenure at Oregon.

"I think he's the best guy I've ever had," said Campbell. "It's funny; I got a phone call from Reuben Droughns, who was one of the better guys that's played for me, and I didn't recognize his number. I asked him who it was and he said, 'I used to be one of your better running backs, but I don't know now with the guy you got there now.'"

In the Ducks final game against Oregon State, James toted the rock 28 times for a game-high 134 yards to end the Ducks regular season with 1,682 yards rushing. He also increased his single-season school record of touchdowns to 22 (21 rushing, one receiving) and broke former Oregon State tailback Steven Jackson's Pac-10 sophomore record of 1,656 yards.

So with numerous school records in hand, James and his Oregon teammates will try to bring the first national title to the Ducks football program.

Will it happen? With James in the backfield, there's no reason why it shouldn't. After all, he's full of explosive ability.

Darron Thomas

and Oregon ... A Perfect Fit

By Lyn Scarbrough

When you first think about it, the fit doesn't seem too natural. Darron Thomas and Oregon.

Here's this star quarterback from Aldine High School in Houston, Texas, the nation's sixth best at his position according to Rivals.com. As a senior, he threw for nearly 2,600 yards and ran for 900 more.

He could choose from almost every top program in the country, including those within driving distance of his hometown. LSU wanted him and it appeared that he wanted LSU.

"He was a guy that we recruited at LSU," said Tigers' offensive coordinator, Gary Crowton. "I really liked Darron. He's a very physical runner; very good leader."

But reportedly LSU preferred Thomas as a wide receiver. He wanted a first shot at quarterback.

Hello ... Eugene, Oregon, a long way from home. You ended up with quite a signal caller.

The unusual path continued for Thomas as a Duck. He played in five contests as a freshman in 2008, passed for 268 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for 27 yards and a score.

His redshirt year came in 2009. He spent the season watching from the sideline as Jeremiah Masoli led Oregon to the Rose Bowl. He was supposed to be a back-up in 2010, but a funny thing happened.

Amid controversy and fanfare, Masoli ended up in Oxford, Mississippi. First, Thomas had to beat out the heir-apparent, senior Nate Costa. When the sophomore accomplished that, the keys were handed over to him ... ready or not.

Was he ever ready!

Thomas, a 6-3 pre-Business major, was all business from the beginning. In his first game, he completed 13 passes for 220 yards and two touchdowns against New Mexico. The final score ... 72-0.

A monstrous point production became commonplace. Two weeks later, the victim was Portland State, 69-0. Oregon put up 60 against UCLA in a 47-point victory. In the season's first 11 games, the team scored at least 42 points ten times. Seven of those were against Pac-10 opposition. They even hung 53 on once-proud Southern Cal ... playing at the Coliseum, no less.

But, everything wasn't smooth for Thomas and the Ducks.

Tennessee led 13-3 in Knoxville before Oregon scored 45 unanswered to win, 48-13.

"We knew it was going to be a long game," the unshaken Thomas said afterward. "We knew we were going to come here and have a good game, and keep fighting. We outlasted them."

The Ducks also had to outlast nationally ranked teams, Stanford and Arizona. The Cardinal jumped to a 21-3 first quarter lead in Eugene, but Thomas led the comeback, winning, 52-31. He completed 20 of 29 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 117 yards and another score.

Against Arizona, Oregon trailed 14-7, but won, 48-29. Thomas threw for three more touchdowns and ran for one.

Only in the team's lone close game, a 15-13 squeaker over California, did Thomas seem stoppable at all. Even then he had 189 total yards and a touchdown.

All-American running back LaMicheal James summed it up after Thomas led his team to the comeback win over Stanford.

"Darron is our leader every week," James said. "He leads the team well. He's more excited when someone else scores a touchdown than when he scores a touchdown."

There's been a lot of excitement and a lot of touchdowns in Eugene this season.

Darron Thomas and Oregon ... a natural fit after all.

Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

Cliff Harris

By Lyn Scarbrough

There are a lot of things that you could call Cliff Harris.

How about "confident?"

The 5-11, 180-pounder from Fresno, Calif., wasn't even listed as a starter until midway through the season, and only then due to injury to another defensive back. That didn't matter to Harris. Since he arrived on the Eugene campus in 2009, he's played fearlessly, with a trademark swagger.

How about "flashy" and "explosive?"

He returned two punts for touchdowns in the season opener against New Mexico, the first player in Oregon history to do that. He led the Pac-10 in interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown. He has the burst, the deceptive speed.

How about "outspoken?"

Harris is always good for a quote – Like calling archrival Oregon State the Ducks' "little brother" in an interview just a few days before the Civil War in Corvallis. Like already talking about the BCS Championship Game – the "natty" as Harris called it – in the locker room after the win over Arizona.

You know what you get with Harris – it's uniquely Harris … and most of it is good.

"He's just Cliff," said Oregon defensive tackle Brandon Bair in an interview with the (Eugene, OR) *Register-Guard*. "There's no other way to describe it. He does good things for us, and as long as he's focused on what he has to do, good things always happen."

It has always been like that for the game-changing sophomore.

As a high school senior, Harris was ranked the No. 7 cornerback in the country by Rivals.com. He had 15 interceptions during his last two prep seasons and returned four kicks for scores.

He contributed as a freshman for the Ducks. He had 19 tackles and a team-leading eight passes broken up. He returned a punt 42 yards against Ohio State in the Rose Bowl. But, despite his high school resume and first year hints of greatness, nobody anticipated the 2010 season for Harris.

After the season opening fireworks against the Lobos, Harris scored a touchdown against Tennessee on a 76-yard interception return. He had a punt return for a touchdown nullified by a penalty against Portland State. He was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Week for his two-interception, five-tackle performance against Stanford.

Against Washington State, he returned a punt 67 yards for a touchdown, then intercepted a pass and returned a punt 41 yards against Southern California. The next week against Washington, he had a career-high 179 all-purpose yards.

But, Harris' biggest contribution to the Pac-10 championship season was in the game where Oregon played its worst. Oregon defeated California, 15-13, when the Ducks offense was shut down. The game was won because of a procedure call against the Bears placekicker on an apparently good fourth quarter field goal … and because of Cliff Harris. His 64-yard punt return for a touchdown (his fourth for the season, setting the Oregon single-season mark) provided the margin of victory.

Harris' statistics speak for themselves. After 12 games, he led the nation with five non-offensive touchdowns, as well as with four punt returns for touchdowns. His 19.4-yard average ranked second in the nation in punt returns. He led the Pac-10 in interceptions and passes defended.

For his season performance, Harris was a semi-finalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award, given to the nation's top defensive player. He was also named semi-finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, presented to the nation's top defensive back.

What best to call Cliff Harris … How about "winner?"

And, if things go Oregon's way in Arizona, you can add the title, "national champion."

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

OREGON VS. NEW MEXICO

Sept. 4, 2010 / 72-0 / Autzen Stadium / 59,104

Oregon opened the season against the New Mexico Lobos with a lot of optimism. The Ducks were coming off a Pac-10 championship, a trip to the Rose Bowl and had sensational running back LaMichael James returning for his sophomore season. But for the opening game, James was out of action after being suspended for the opening game by coach Chip Kelly.

It hardly mattered.

Kenjon Barner stepped up and did his best to replace the star running back by rushing for 147 yards and touchdowns of 1, 25, 10 and 41 yards. He also caught a 60-yard touchdown pass. His five touchdowns all came in the first 21:09 of the game.

"I've been saying all along, I think he's the most underrated player in the country," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "Today he got a chance to shine. We've always felt that we've had 1A and 1B. We run the ball 40 times a game; one guy is not going to get all the carries."

Barner was not the only star of the game for the Ducks. Sophomore quarterback Darron Thomas, who was expected to be behind Jeremiah Masoli and Nate Costa on the depth chart this season, made his first start and completed 13 of 23 passes for 220 yards and two touchdowns.

"I wasn't overconfident because I never knew what was going to happen," Thomas said. "I needed to come out today and have a good game. I took a couple of hits, but that's what I wanted to do to get me back into a rhythm."

Remene Alston added 110 yards on 21 carries. Cliff Harris set a school single-game record with punt returns of 61 and 64 yards for touchdowns. The two punt return touchdowns also tied the season record.

The Ducks rolled up 720 yards of total offense, another school record. They equaled the program's modern scoring record with 72 points while setting a new modern record for scoring margin (also 72 points), the most since a 72-10 victory against Nevada in 1999. It was also UO's most points since a 97-0 win over Willamette (Ore.) in 1916.

Barner got the scoring going with 8:22 left in the first quarter when he scored on a 1-yard run. It was the final three minutes of the quarter that broke the game open. First, Thomas hit David Paulson with a 30-yard touchdown pass to cap a 82-yard, 10-play drive with 3:03 left. A minute and eight seconds later, Barner ripped off a 25-yard scoring run and 51 seconds later Barner scored again, this time from 10 yards out for a 28-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

Barner scored twice in the first 6:09 of the second quarter, once on a 41-yard run and less than two minutes later, he was on the receiving end of a 60-yard pass from Thomas. Then it became the Cliff Harris show as he returned two punts for scores, while Eric Solis kicked a 24-yard field goal between them.

The 59-0 first half advantage put the game away. In the second half, the Ducks added two more Solis field goals — from 29 and 30 yards — and a 7-yard touchdown run by Daryle Hawkins for the final score.

"We were atrocious on third down, offensively, defensively," said New Mexico coach Mike Locksley. "We had five turnovers and we weren't efficient running the football.

"We got in a lot of young guys, first-time players, so hopefully this experience will help us in the future. We got to find a way to grow up fast. We have a lot of work to do," he said.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Kenjon Barner, playing in the place of star LaMichael James who was serving a one-game suspension over a misdemeanor harassment charge, rushed for 147 yards, his career best. He had rushing touchdowns of 1, 25, 10 and 41 yards and caught a 60-yard touchdown pass, all in the first 21:09 of the game.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Return specialist **Cliff Harris** scored touchdowns on punt returns of 61 and 64 yards as he became the first player in Oregon history to have two punt return touchdowns in the same game. He had two tackles on defense as Oregon's defense held New Mexico to 107 yards of total offense.

DEFINING MOMENT

The defining moment was when Oregon actually showed up at Autzen Stadium for the kickoff. The Ducks rolled up a school record 720 yards of total offense and held the Lobos to just eight first downs and 107 yards of total offense. It was no contest.

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

8:22 ORE - Kenjon Barner 1 yd run (Eric Solis kick), 5-20 1:23, NM 0 - ORE 7
3:03 ORE - David Paulson 30 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Eric Solis kick), 10-82 2:18, NM 0 - ORE 14
1:55 ORE - Kenjon Barner 25 yd run (Eric Solis kick), 2-43 0:24, NM 0 - ORE 21
1:04 ORE - Kenjon Barner 10 yd run (Eric Solis kick), 3-49 0:31, NM 0 - ORE 28

Second Quarter

10:49 ORE - Kenjon Barner 41 yd run (Eric Solis kick), 4-52 0:54, NM 0 - ORE 35
8:51 ORE - Kenjon Barner 60 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Eric Solis kick), 1-60 0:14, NM 0 - ORE 42
6:51 ORE - Cliff Harris 61 yd punt return (Eric Solis kick), NM 0 - ORE 49
1:55 ORE - Eric Solis 24 yd field goal, 9-52 2:38, NM 0 - ORE 52
0:15 ORE - Cliff Harris 64 yd punt return (Eric Solis kick), NM 0 - ORE 59

Third Quarter

8:51 ORE - Eric Solis 29 yd field goal, 14-68 4:31, NM 0 - ORE 62
5:30 ORE - Eric Solis 30 yd field goal, 7-25 2:43, NM 0 - ORE 65

Fourth Quarter

6:36 ORE - Daryle Hawkins 7 yd run (Eric Solis kick), 8-65 3:07, NM 0 - ORE 72

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Oregon Defense

Team Statistics

	NM	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	8	35
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	32-25	58-369
PASSING YDS (NET)	82	351
Passes Att-Comp-Int	29-13-2	37-23-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	61-107	95-720
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	3-134
Kickoff Returns-Yards	12-251	1-9
Interception Returns-Yards	1-28	2-2
Punts (Number-Avg)	6-41.0	0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-25	7-70
Possession Time	27:20	32:40
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 13	13 of 19
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 4	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	6-8
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	1-2

Individual Statistics

Rushing

New Mexico	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Tarean Austin	5	26	0	26	0	8	5.2
Demond Dennis	11	26	16	10	0	9	0.9
James Wright	11	21	12	9	0	8	0.8
Bryant Williams	1	8	0	8	0	8	8.0
B.R. Holbrook	2	2	2	0	0	2	0.0

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Kenjon Barner	17	155	8	147	4	41	8.6
Remene Alston	21	114	4	110	0	38	5.2
Daryle Hawkins	10	68	0	68	1	18	6.8
Andres Reed	6	30	0	30	0	12	5.0
Nate Costa	4	17	3	14	0	9	3.5

Passing

New Mexico	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
B.R. Holbrook	11-24-2	70	0	13	1
Tarean Austin	2-5-0	12	0	7	0

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	13-23-1	220	2	60	0
Nate Costa	10-14-0	131	0	20	0

Receiving

New Mexico	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Ty Kirk	8	48	0	13
Chris Hernandez	2	14	0	9
Zach Daughtry	2	13	0	11
James Wright	1	7	0	7

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	5	91	0	39
Josh Huff	3	45	0	20
David Paulson	2	42	1	30
Will Murphy	2	22	0	13
Lavasier Tuinei	2	11	0	7
Kenjon Barner	1	60	1	60
Brandon Williams	1	19	0	19
Dustin Haines	1	18	0	18
Andres Reed	1	15	0	15
Remene Alston	1	14	0	14
Daryle Hawkins	1	10	0	10
Drew Davis	1	6	0	6
Chad Delaney	1	2	0	2
Darron Thomas	1	-4	0	0

OREGON VS. TENNESSEE

Sept. 11, 2010 / 48-13 / Neyland Stadium / 102,035

Oregon made a cross-country flight for the second game of the season and took on the Tennessee Vols before a crowd of 102,035 in Neyland Stadium in Knoxville. It was a game that saw Tennessee, fired up playing for its new coach Derek Dooley, dominate early, but then nature — and the Oregon offense — struck.

With Tennessee leading 6-0 on two Daniel Lincoln field goals in the first quarter, the game was halted for 70 minutes due to lightning in the area.

"We had a delay, but they had the same delay—it's just in how you handle it," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said.

The Ducks handled it just fine. When play resumed, a Rob Beard 37-yard field goal cut the lead in half before the Vols took a 13-3 lead on a 1-yard run by Tauren Poole early in the second quarter. But the Oregon defense decided enough was enough and Tennessee had enough. It was time for the Ducks' brand of lightning to hit.

It started with two drives just before halftime. Oregon chewed up clock on a 60-yard, 13-play drive that ended with Beard's second field goal of the night, a 42-yarder, that made it 13-6.

Tennessee failed to get a first down after a short possession, using up only 55 seconds of the clock, then the Vols got a 27-yard punt from Chad Cunningham to give Oregon the ball at the Ducks' 38-yard line with 1:55 remaining. It took just five plays and 51 seconds for Oregon to go 62 yards with Darron Thomas hitting David Paulson with a 27-yard touchdown pass to tie the score at 13-13 and change the momentum of the game.

"We screwed up the last three minutes of the half in all three phases," said Dooley.

The second half was all Oregon as the Ducks offense reeled off 35 points and the defense kept Tennessee off the scoreboard. In fact, the defense only allowed the Vols one penetration into Oregon territory and that resulted in a Ducks' touchdown on an interception return by Cliff Harris.

James broke the game open with a 72-yard touchdown run on the second possession of the second half when he broke several tackles and left a sea of orange defenders in his wake.

"We didn't make any adjustments in the second half," James said. "It comes down to tempo. Once the tempo gets going, it's hard to stop. Once those guys got tired, we kept rolling."

Later in the quarter, Tennessee threatened by driving into Oregon territory. But the defensive front got pressure on Vols quarterback Matt Simms and he forced a pass that Harris picked off and returned 76 yards for a touchdown. That made the score 27-13 and the rout was on.

It was the third touchdown of the year for the sophomore cornerback and it came on only his third official touch of the season.

"I think we quit after the pick-six," Dooley said. "You would have thought we were down 40."

In the fourth quarter, Thomas hit Lavasier Tuinei with a 29-yard touchdown pass; Kenjon Barner returned a punt 80 yards for another score; and Remene Alston finished off the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run.

The win made Oregon 3-0 against teams from the SEC and 5-0 in its last five games east of the Rocky Mountains.

"They were a great team, and they just beat (us) tonight," Tennessee linebacker Nick Reveiz said. "I feel like their offense set such a tempo. As a defense you have to match that, and if you don't, then you're going to get ran right by. And that's what they did to us."

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

LaMichael James, back in the lineup after serving a one-game suspension, proved he was ready to go as he rushed for 134 yards on 16 carries and scored one touchdown. The touchdown came early in the third quarter with the score tied at 13-13. James dashed 72 yards to paydirt.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Senior right cornerback **Talmadge Jackson** tied with Eddie Pleasant and John Boyett with game-high honors with eight tackles. Jackson, however, had seven solo stops, which were the most in the game. Oregon went the first five quarters of the season before allowing a touchdown.

DEFINING MOMENT

With the score 13-13 early in the third quarter, LaMichael James made the game-changing play. After being held to 27 yards rushing in the first half, on Oregon's second possession of the second half he broke several tackles and went 72 yards to score, giving Oregon a 20-13 lead.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	3	10	14	21	48
TENNESSEE	6	7	0	0	13

Photo by Randy Sartin/Cal Sport Media

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

11:13 UT - Daniel Lincoln 48 yd field goal, 7-50 3:57, ORE 0 - UT 3
8:53 UT - Daniel Lincoln 35 yd field goal, 5-26 2:10, ORE 0 - UT 6
1:25 ORE - Rob Beard 37 yd field goal, 13-51 3:23, ORE 3 - UT 6

Second Quarter

14:21 UT - Tauren Poole 1 yd run (Daniel Lincoln kick), 5-69 1:59, ORE 3 - UT 13
2:56 ORE - Rob Beard 42 yd field goal, 13-60 3:48, ORE 6 - UT 13
1:04 ORE - David Paulson 27 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 5-62 0:51, ORE 13 - UT 13

Third Quarter

10:10 ORE - LaMichael James, 72 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 1-72 0:17, ORE 20 - UT 13
6:27 ORE - Cliff Harris 76 yd interception return (Rob Beard kick), ORE 27 - UT 13

Fourth Quarter

13:28 ORE - Lavasier Tuinei 29 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 6-59 2:10, ORE 34 - UT 13
11:39 ORE - Kenjon Barner 80 yd punt return (Rob Beard kick), ORE 41 - UT 13
3:54 ORE - Remene Alston 2 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 10-51 6:26, ORE 48 - UT 13

Photo by Randy Sartin/Cal Sport Media

Terrell Turner

Team Statistics

	ORE	UT
FIRST DOWNS	26	14
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	44-245	36-182
PASSING YDS (NET)	202	151
Passes Att-Comp-Int	32-17-0	29-15-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	76-447	65-333
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-84	1-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-107	8-157
Interception Returns-Yards	1-76	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-41.8	8-41.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-38	7-60
Possession Time	28:47	31:13
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 12	2 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-13	1-10

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	16	142	8	134	1	72	8.4
Remene Alston	9	43	3	40	1	8	4.4
Darron Thomas	7	44	10	34	0	17	4.9
Kenjon Barner	7	26	0	26	0	7	3.7
Nate Costa	1	11	0	11	0	11	11.0
Daryle Hawkins	2	4	0	4	0	2	2.0

Tennessee	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Tauren Poole	23	164	2	162	1	39	7.0
Da'Rick Rogers	1	21	0	21	0	21	21.0
David Oku	7	12	4	8	0	3	1.1
Rajion Neal	2	2	0	2	0	1	1.0
Matt Simms	3	2	13	-11	0	2	-3.7

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	17-32-0	202	2	29	1

Tennessee	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Matt Simms	15-29-1	151	0	31	2

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	5	50	0	17
David Paulson	4	61	1	27
Lavasier Tuinei	3	45	1	29
Kenjon Barner	2	11	0	7
D.J. Davis	2	6	0	6
Brandon Williams	1	29	0	29

Tennessee	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Denarius Moore	4	37	0	17
Zach Rogers	3	45	0	31
Tauren Poole	3	17	0	14
Kevin Cooper	2	14	0	11
Justin Hunter	1	31	0	31
David Oku	1	5	0	5
Luke Stocker	1	2	0	2

OREGON VS. PORTLAND STATE

Sept. 18, 2010 / 69-0 / Autzen Stadium / 58,086

The Ducks were ready to build on their momentum from the first two games when the Portland State Vikings came to Autzen Stadium for the third game of the season.

And, as was the case in the home opener, the Ducks overpowered them.

This one was obvious from the third play of the game when LaMichael James broke free and went 66 yards for a touchdown. James just kept going the rest of the first half. Because of the early lead, he spent most of the second half on the sidelines watching Andres Reed and Remene Alston get in on the fun.

James finished with 227 yards on just 14 carries, an eye-popping 16.2 yards per carry average. He also added a 35-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and he caught a pass for nine yards.

But it wasn't good enough for the 5-9, 185-pound tailback from Texarkana, Tex.

"(It was) the worst game I've ever played in my life," James said. "I had a lot of yards, yeah, but I didn't really play that well. I take that on myself. I wasn't the same guy that I was last week. I got to fix that."

It was the first 200-yard game of James' career, and it all came in the first half. James and the rest of the starting offense spent most of the second half relaxing on the bench, which was a nice break with the Pac-10 schedule starting the next week.

Oregon rolled up 528 yards on the ground, which set a new school record. The old mark of 465 was set against Washington in 2007.

"The first team wanted to come out and put up some good points to let the second team go," said quarterback Darron Thomas, who finished 9-of-18 for 140 yards and four touchdown passes, again all in the first half. "We did a good job; we put some points on the board."

After James' first touchdown, the Ducks added two more first-quarter touchdowns on Thomas passes to Jeff Maehl of 7 and 47 yards.

Oregon put it out of reach with 24 points in the second quarter. James got the scoring started with a 35-yard run that capped a 70-yard, three-play drive. After a Cliff Harris punt return of 25 yards put the Ducks in business at the Portland State 34-yard line, it only took four plays to make it 35-0. Daryle Hawkins got the touchdown on a 12-yard pass from Thomas.

A little over three minutes later, Rob Beard added a 27-yard field goal. On Portland State's next possession, Brian Jackson forced a fumble and Michael Clay recovered at the Vikings' 38-yard line, setting up a nine-play drive that ended when Thomas tossed an 8-yard touchdown pass to Malachi Lewis to make the score 45-0 six seconds before halftime.

Another Harris punt return of 27 yards early in the third quarter led to a 41-yard Beard field goal to make it 48-0.

Three plays later, Marvin Johnson forced another fumble that was recovered by Boseko Lokombo at the Vikings' 32. Six plays later, Nate Costa scored on a 4-yard run to up the score to 55-0.

Again disaster hit Portland State two plays later when Javes Lewis intercepted a pass and returned it seven yards to the Portland State 18. Josh Huff covered the 18 yards on the second play after the interception and the Ducks led, 62-0.

Oregon added a final touchdown late in the third quarter when Remene capped a 62-yard, six-play drive with a 20-yard scoring run to make it 69-0. It improved the Ducks record to 3-0 with Arizona State next up in the Pac-10 opener.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

LaMichael James burst 66 yards for a touchdown a minute into the game and he didn't stop running the rest of the half. He finished the game with 227 yards on just 14 carries, good for a 16.2-yard per carry average. He also added a 35-yard touchdown run and caught a pass.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Redshirt freshman defensive back **Brian Jackson** led the Ducks with eight tackles and forced a fumble that led to a touchdown. He also intercepted the first pass of his collegiate career and returned it six yards. The forced fumble and the interception came deep in Portland State territory.

DEFINING MOMENT

In a game that was little more than a scrimmage for the Ducks, you couldn't find a key moment other than the opening kickoff. Just a minute and six seconds into the game, LaMichael James broke free for a 66-yard touchdown run that could count as the defining moment.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
PORTLAND ST.	0	0	0	0	0
OREGON	21	24	24	0	69

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

13:54 ORE - LaMichael James 66 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 3-75 1:06, PSU 0 - ORE 7
11:41 ORE - Jeff Maehl 47 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 5-68 1:19, PSU 0 - ORE 14
10:05 ORE - Jeff Maehl 7 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 2-7 0:10, PSU 0 - ORE 21

Second Quarter

12:31 ORE - LaMichael James 35 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 3-70 0:44, PSU 0 - ORE 28
5:26 ORE - Daryle Hawkins 12 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 4-34 0:56, PSU 0 - ORE 35
2:21 ORE - Rob Beard 27 yd field goal, 5-54 1:05, PSU 0 - ORE 38
0:06 ORE - Malachi Lewis 8 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 9-38 1:49, PSU 0 - ORE 45

Third Quarter

11:30 ORE - Rob Beard 41 yd field goal, 6-15 1:39, PSU 0 - ORE 48
9:01 ORE - Nate Costa 4 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 6-32 1:29, PSU 0 - ORE 55
7:09 ORE - Josh Huff 18 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 2-18 0:38, PSU 0 - ORE 62
3:10 ORE - Remene Alston 20 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 6-62 2:07, PSU 0 - ORE 69

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Jeff Maehl

Team Statistics

	PSU	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	7	24
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	36-74	63-528
PASSING YDS (NET)	66	140
Passes Att-Comp-Int	32-12-2	20-9-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	68-140	83-668
Fumble Returns-Yards	1-14	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1-1	7-68
Kickoff Returns-Yards	11-165	1-25
Interception Returns-Yards	1-1	2-13
Punts (Number-Avg)	11-41.9	3-36.3
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	2-2
Penalties-Yards	7-35	7-50
Possession Time	33:50	26:10
Third-Down Conversions	0 of 18	8 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	2 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-2	7-9
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	4-27

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Portland State	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Cory McCaffrey	12	37	9	28	0	12	2.3
Shaughn Sanford	6	27	1	26	0	18	4.3
Willie Griffin	9	24	7	17	0	18	1.9
Tygue Howland	1	8	0	8	0	8	8.0
Connor Kavanaugh	8	22	27	-5	0	7	-0.6

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	14	232	5	227	2	66	16.2
Andres Reed	12	107	12	95	0	36	7.9
Remene Alston	13	70	11	59	1	20	4.5
Darron Thomas	8	53	3	50	0	35	6.2
Josh Huff	2	31	0	31	1	18	15.5
Kenjon Barner	3	28	0	28	0	16	9.3
Daryle Hawkins	6	24	3	21	0	9	3.5
Nate Costa	3	16	0	16	1	7	5.3
Dustin Haines	2	3	2	1	0	3	0.5

Passing

Portland State	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Connor Kavanaugh	8-21-1	18	0	8	4
Tygue Howland	4-11-1	48	0	22	0

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	9-18-1	140	4	47	0
Nate Costa	0-2-0	0	0	0	0

Receiving

Portland State	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Julius Thomas	4	48	0	22
Nick Hutter	2	14	0	8
Cory McCaffrey	2	6	0	4
Ray Fry	1	3	0	3
Keitrell Anderson	1	1	0	1
Willie Griffin	1	0	0	0
Ricky Cookman	1	-6	0	0

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	3	82	2	47
Drew Davis	1	13	0	13
Daryle Hawkins	1	12	1	12
Lavasier Tuinei	1	12	0	12
LaMichael James	1	9	0	9
Malachi Lewis	1	8	1	8
Josh Huff	1	4	0	4

OREGON VS. ARIZONA STATE

Sept. 25, 2010 / 42-31 / Sun Devil Stadium / 60,326

Oregon was ready to open defense of its Pac-10 title with a road trip to Tempe, Arizona to meet the Arizona State Sun Devils.

It looked early on as if the Ducks might have trouble in the desert when Arizona State took a quick 7-0 on a 53-yard scamper by Deantre Lewis. But Oregon's quick-strike offense didn't let the lead last.

Starting from its own 39-yard line following the kickoff, Oregon went 61 yards in just four plays with LaMichael James getting the score on a 40-yard run. Then, less than a minute later, the Ducks defense hit Arizona State quarterback Steven Threet trying to pass. Free safety John Boyett picked it off and returned it 39 yards for his first career touchdown to give the Ducks a 14-7 lead.

But Arizona State battled back and scored 17 straight points to take a 24-14 lead with 3:36 remaining in the first half.

Oregon again showed its quick-strike ability. The Ducks took the ensuing kickoff and went 80 yards in eight plays with Darron Thomas hitting Jeff Maehl with a 12-yard touchdown pass. The drive took just 1:15 off the clock. After forcing a punt, the Ducks again went 80 yards to score and they did it in just 24 seconds. The big play was a 61-yard completion from Thomas to David Paulson to the ASU 4-yard line. Thomas carried it in on the next play and Oregon went to the locker room with a 28-24 lead over the stunned Sun Devils.

"That was a momentum swing," said Oregon coach Chip Kelly. "We kind of weathered the storm. We felt it would be like that."

The Sun Devils had held the vaunted Oregon ground game in check, so Thomas and the offense took to the air to keep pouring on the points.

"You see that the defense came out in the second quarter and played an awesome game, helped us out on offense," Thomas said. "We never had doubt that we weren't going to put up points."

The defense, despite giving up 597 yards in total offense, did its part by holding the Sun Devils to just one touchdown in the second half and forcing seven turnovers—three fumble recoveries and four interceptions. Two of the turnovers were taken back for touchdowns—Boyett's early pass interception and, in the third quarter, Boseko Lokombo recovered a fumble and took it 32 yards for Oregon's final touchdown.

Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson summed up the difference in the game.

"That's the turnovers, the seven turnovers, that makes the difference," he said. "We were down in there a couple of times and we don't get it and it's kind of a nightmare for us really, to be honest with you."

Kelly was diplomatic with the victory.

"That's a good football team," he said. "That team could easily be 4-0 right now. We're 1-0 in the league on the road right now and that's good for us. They did a lot of good things. That was the top defense in the conference last year and a lot of guys came back. We don't make excuses. We'll get better. It's great when you have teachable moments after a 'W'."

"It's the best defense I've faced in my whole career in Oregon," said James, who was held to 94 yards on 28 carries. "They were fast and strong. It felt like they were everywhere. Everywhere I went, they were there. They had a great scheme for what we were doing. I think they really keyed in on our game."

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Quarterback **Darron Thomas** completed 19 of 33 pass attempts for 260 yards and two touchdowns and he scored once. His touchdown passes were 12 yards to Jeff Maehl and 54 yards to Josh Huff, but he hit a 61-yard completion to David Paulson that set up the go-ahead touchdown just before halftime.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Sophomore free safety **John Boyett** played the key defensive role with a game-high 11 tackles and three passes broken up. With the score tied 7-7 in the first quarter, he intercepted a Steven Threet pass and returned it 39 yards for his first career touchdown.

DEFINING MOMENT

Trailing 24-14 with 3:36 left in the first half, Oregon rallied for two touchdowns in 1:39 to take a 28-24 lead at intermission. The second touchdown came after a 61-yard Darron Thomas to David Paulson pass that set up a 4-yard touchdown run by Thomas to give the Ducks the lead.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	14	14	14	0	42
ARIZONA ST.	7	17	7	0	31

Photo by Max Simbron/Cal Sport Media

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

7:25 ASU - Deantre Lewis 53 yd run (Thomas Weber kick), 7-81 3:23, ORE 0 - ASU 7
6:14 ORE - LaMichael James 40 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 4-61 1:04, ORE 7 - ASU 7
5:21 ORE - John Boyett 39 yd interception return (Rob Beard kick), ORE 14 - ASU 7

Second Quarter

7:23 ASU - Mike Willie 10 yd pass from Steven Threet (Thomas Weber kick), 12-85 5:13, ORE 14 - ASU 14
4:10 ASU - Thomas Weber 34 yd field goal, 5-52 1:45, ORE 14 - ASU 17
3:36 ASU - Kerry Taylor 28 yd pass from Steven Threet (Thomas Weber kick), 1-28 0:06, ORE 14 - ASU 24
2:21 ORE - Jeff Maehl 12 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 8-80 1:15, ORE 21 - ASU 24
0:48 ORE - Darron Thomas 4 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 3-80 0:24, ORE 28 - ASU 24

Third Quarter

8:12 ORE - Josh Huff 54 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 6-80 1:47, ORE 35 - ASU 24
4:57 ORE - Boseko Lokombo 32 yd fumble recovery (Rob Beard kick), ORE 42 - ASU 24
2:25 ASU - Mike Willie 15 yd pass from Steven Threet (Thomas Weber kick), 8-68 2:26, ORE 42 - ASU 31

Photo by Max Simbron/Cal Sport Media

Javes Lewis

Team Statistics

	ORE	ASU
FIRST DOWNS	20	31
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	36-125	46-210
PASSING YDS (NET)	260	387
Passes Att-Comp-Int	33-19-1	53-30-4
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	69-385	99-597
Fumble Returns-Yards	1-32	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	3-19	3-3
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-82	6-142
Interception Returns-Yards	4-36	1-19
Punts (Number-Avg)	11-46.2	6-48.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	5-3
Penalties-Yards	8-82	9-90
Possession Time	25:26	34:26
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 14	9 of 20
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	3-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-28	0-0

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	28	120	26	94	1	40	3.4
Darron Thomas	4	18	0	18	1	7	4.5
Josh Huff	1	14	0	14	0	14	14.0
Kenjon Barner	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

Arizona State	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Deantre Lewis	11	127	0	127	1	53	11.5
Cameron Marshall	18	88	9	79	0	16	4.4
Steven Threet	10	41	35	6	0	25	0.6
Jamal Miles	7	9	11	-2	0	5	-0.3

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Sack
Darron Thomas	19-33-1	260	2	61	0

Arizona State	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Sack
Steven Threet	30-53-4	387	3	43	4

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
D.J. Davis	5	54	0	17
Jeff Maehl	5	31	1	12
Lavasier Tuinei	4	27	0	12
David Paulson	2	76	0	61
Kenjon Barner	2	18	0	12
Josh Huff	1	54	1	54

Arizona State	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Gerell Robinson	7	94	0	19
Mike Willie	5	74	2	26
Deantre Lewis	5	65	0	43
Kerry Taylor	4	66	1	28
George Bell	4	41	0	25
Aaron Pflugrad	3	42	0	27
Jamal Miles	2	5	0	3

OREGON VS. STANFORD

Oct. 2, 2010 / 52-31 / Autzen Stadium / 59,818

Oregon faced its biggest challenge of the year so far against Stanford in the fifth game of the season.

After an early 3-0 lead on a Rob Beard field goal, Stanford took advantage of two Oregon turnovers and reeled off 21 straight points to take a 21-3 lead after the first quarter.

"We knew we just had to find a way to overcome the deficit," said LaMichael James. "We were down, but we always feel that something will eventually happen for us. We practice fast and feel confident with the tempo that we play and it eventually worked for us. We don't care how much we're down early. We feel that if we're in the game in the second quarter, we can win the game."

And they did.

It started when quarterback Darron Thomas, making up for an earlier pick-six, directed a nine-play, 85-yard drive that ended when he connected with Jeff Maehl for a 29-yard touchdown pass to pull the Ducks to within 11 points at 21-10.

"He did a tremendous job," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said of Thomas. "He doesn't get rattled. He can run the ball. We can put those rumors to bed that he can't run a football."

Thomas finished the game with 117 yards rushing on 15 carries.

"He is a leader every week" James said of Thomas. "He leads our team every day. When he throws a pick, he bounces back. Darron made great reads and keyed a lot of things for the offense with his running today."

After the score, Oregon caught Stanford flatfooted and executed a perfect onside kick and got the ball back at its own 46-yard line.

"That was a big play for us," said James. "We were down and needed a boost; that provided it."

The Ducks took seven plays to cover the distance with James getting the points on a 5-yard run.

But Stanford did not go away quietly. The Cardinal sandwiched a 41-yard touchdown pass from Thomas to Josh Huff between an Andrew Luck touchdown pass and a field goal to take a 31-24 lead at halftime. But that was all the points Stanford would get. In the first five games, OU has given up only one second-half touchdown.

"Our defense did a great job of making adjustments," said Kelly. "At halftime I told the team 'Get caught in the act of being themselves' and I didn't even have to yell. They came out and did it."

Oregon pulled even at 31-31 midway through the third quarter on a 6-yard scoring run by Thomas. The Oregon defense then made the play of the game as Stanford was attempting to drive for a score. Luck completed a pass to Chris Owusu to the Oregon 46, but Javes Lewis blasted Owusu and forced a fumble. Eddie Pleasant picked up the ball and returned it 51 yards to the Cardinal 3-yard line. James scored on the next play to give Oregon the lead for good.

"That was a big turning point for us," defensive tackle Brandon Bair said of the Lewis hit that forced the crucial fumble. "The way we play, we make our hits and big things eventually happen for us. That play was a good example of that."

Oregon added two touchdowns in the fourth quarter—a 25-yard pass from Thomas to D.J. Davis and a 76-yard run by James, who finished with 257 yards and three touchdowns.

"I felt that I hit on all cylinders tonight," James said. "I played with a lot more energy than I did the last couple games."

"You never know when he'll run it to the house," added Thomas.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

LaMichael James led Oregon with 257 yards rushing on 31 carries and scored touchdowns on runs of 5, 3 and 76 yards. It was his second 200+ yards game and gave him 2,258 yards in a season and four games. He is eighth on the Oregon career rushing list.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Strong safety **Eddie Pleasant** had nine tackles, including half a tackle for loss. He also was at the right place when Chris Owusu fumbled at the Oregon 46-yard line to scoop up the football and return it 51 yards to the Stanford 3-yard line to set up the go ahead touchdown.

DEFINING MOMENT

With the game tied 31-31 and just under six minutes to play in the third quarter, Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck completed a pass to Chris Owusu to the Oregon 46. Javes Lewis hit Owusu and forced a fumble. Eddie Pleasant picked up the ball and carried it 51 yards to the Cardinal 3-yard line, setting up the go-ahead score.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
STANFORD	21	10	0	0	31
OREGON	3	21	14	14	52

Photo by Max Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

11:01 ORE - Rob Beard 22 yd field goal, 9-70 3:59, STAN 0 - ORE 3
5:06 STAN - Griff Whalen 18 yd pass from Andrew Luck (Nate Whitaker kick), 11-70 5:55, STAN 7 - ORE 3
4:02 STAN - Andrew Luck 10 yd run (Nate Whitaker kick), 3-12 1:04, STAN 14 - ORE 3
1:08 STAN - Stepfan Taylor 44 yd run (Nate Whitaker kick), 1-44 0:10, STAN 21 - ORE 3

Second Quarter

13:17 ORE - Jeff Maehl 29 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 9-85 2:51, STAN 21 - ORE 10
11:18 ORE - LaMichael James 5 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 7-54 1:59, STAN 21 - ORE 17
7:30 STAN - Coby Fleener 36 yd pass from Andrew Luck (Nate Whitaker kick), 7-87 3:48, STAN 28 - ORE 17
5:41 ORE - Josh Huff 41 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 8-75 1:49, STAN 28 - ORE 24
00:00 STAN - Nate Whitaker 46 yd field goal, 5-40 0:50, STAN 31 - ORE 24

Third Quarter

8:20 ORE - Darron Thomas 6 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 9-68 2:33, STAN 31 - ORE 31
5:34 ORE - LaMichael James 3 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 1-3 0:05, STAN 31 - ORE 38

Fourth Quarter

14:55 ORE - D.J. Davis 25 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 6-49 1:35, STAN 31 - ORE 45
1:10 ORE - LaMichael James 76 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 3-80 1:04, STAN 31 - ORE 52

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Kenny Rowe

Team Statistics

	STAN	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	25	31
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	31-177	51-388
PASSING YDS (NET)	341	238
Passes Att-Comp-Int	46-29-2	29-20-2
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	77-518	80-626
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	1-51
Punt Returns-Yards	1-1	1-17
Kickoff Returns-Yards	7-116	4-71
Interception Returns-Yards	2-2	2-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-39.8	2-27.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	9-76	5-45
Possession Time	33:28	26:32
Third-Down Conversions	8 of 15	6 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-4	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	1-5

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Stanford	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Stepfan Taylor	17	113	0	113	1	44	6.6
Andrew Luck	8	48	9	39	1	21	4.9
Anthony Wilkerson	2	13	0	13	0	11	6.5
Owen Marecic	2	6	0	6	0	4	3.0
Usua Amanam	2	6	0	6	0	4	3.0

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	31	257	0	257	3	76	8.3
Darron Thomas	15	117	0	117	1	22	7.8
Kenjon Barner	5	14	0	14	0	4	2.8

Passing

Stanford	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Andrew Luck	29-46-2	341	2	41	1

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	20-29-2	238	3	41	0

Receiving

Stanford	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Stepfan Taylor	8	68	0	17
Chris Owusu	6	52	0	20
Griff Whalen	5	78	1	26
Doug Baldwin	3	33	0	24
Coby Fleener	2	41	1	36
Konrad Reuland	2	21	0	14
Jamal-Rashad Patterson	1	41	0	41
Owen Marecic	1	4	0	4
Zach Ertz	1	3	0	3

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
D.J. Davis	6	64	1	25
Josh Huff	5	64	1	41
Lavasier Tuinei	5	47	0	16
Jeff Maehl	3	50	1	29
David Paulson	1	13	0	13

OREGON VS. WASHINGTON STATE

Oct. 9, 2010 / 43-23 / Martin Stadium / 24,768

It was a trying day for Oregon in Pullman, Washington.

Tailback Kenjon Barner left the field in an ambulance after a scary collision early in the first quarter, and quarterback Darron Thomas was removed from the game in the second due to a an injured right shoulder. But in typical Ducks fashion, Chip Kelly's squad kept plugging along and eventually escaped Martin Stadium with a 43-23 win.

"I thought our guys were pretty focused after that. Injuries are part of the games and you have to deal with 'em," Kelly said. "It's just tough when you have injuries like that and there is an ambulance that comes on the field, but I thought our kids did a pretty good job handling it after that."

Behind 136 yards rushing and three touchdowns — two rushing, one receiving — from tailback LaMichael James and a near perfect day passing from backup quarterback Nate Costa, Oregon rolled up 556 yards of total offense to move to 6-0 on the season.

James, who is tight with Barner, said following the game that all he thought about on every run was his backfield mate.

"Every play I ran, Kenjon was in my mind," James said.

Costa was brilliant in relief of Thomas. The 6-1, 210-pound senior completed 13 of 15 passes for 151 yards and a score. He also chipped in 84 yards rushing on eight carries.

"We did a lot of the same things throwing the ball, running the ball, just trying to get the ball to our playmakers," Costa said. "For me it was just kind of like practice. I saw all these looks in practice this week and I just carried it over. I'm proud I played this way."

James got the Ducks on the board first with his first 1-yard touchdown run of the day. Dion Jordan then added the two-point conversion attempt to put the Ducks up 8-0 early in the opening quarter.

Washington State answered late in the first when James Montgomery scampered 26 yards to paydirt to cut Oregon's lead to one, 8-7. But they took the lead after Anthony Carpenter nailed Barner, forcing a fumble. The Cougars' Hallston Higgins scooped up the loose ball at the Ducks' 6-yard line, which led to a Mitz Logwone 1-yard touchdown run and a 14-8 Washington State lead.

Following the big turnover, it didn't take long for Oregon to reclaim the lead. Facing a 3rd-and-14 at their own 16-yard line, Thomas connected with James for an 84-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 14 all. Sophomore Rob Beard added the extra point and the Ducks were suddenly back up by one.

Oregon added two more touchdowns in the second quarter and entered halftime with a comfortable 29-17 lead.

In the third quarter, Costa upped Oregon's lead to 36-17 when he broke loose on an 18-yard scoring run, but WSU quarterback Jeff Tuel answered the Ducks score by firing a touchdown strike to Dan Blackledge with 4:38 left in the quarter. The TD pass cut Oregon's lead to 36-23 and shifted the momentum back to the side of the Cougars.

On Oregon's ensuing possession, linebacker C.J. Mizell forced a fumble by James, which turned the ball back over to Washington State. The Cougars then marched down the field to the Ducks 12-yard line, but OU linebacker Casey Matthews picked off a Tuel pass at the 2-yard line and returned it seven yards.

The Ducks then iced the game by scoring on a 10-play, 3:52 drive which was capped by a Jeff Maehl touchdown catch. It was Maehl's tenth catch of the day and it ended State's dream of an upset.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Tailback **LaMichael James** carried the rock 25 times for 136 yards and two touchdowns to pace the Ducks high-powered O. He also added an 84-yard touchdown reception in the first quarter to finish with three TDs on the afternoon. James' scoring runs covered 1-yard each.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Eddie Pleasant was the catalyst for the Ducks defensively. The 5-11, 213-pound rover recorded seven tackles, two sacks and two tackles for loss to pace an Oregon defense that held State under 100 yards rushing. Pleasant also helped the Ducks defense hold the Cougars without a TD in the second half.

DEFINING MOMENT

After a holding call, two tackles for loss and a short completion forced Washington State into a punting situation midway through the second quarter — with the Ducks up by one — Cliff Harris scored on a 67-yard return to put Oregon up for good, 22-14. The Cougars scored only nine points after that.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	15	14	7	7	43
WASHINGTON ST.	14	3	6	0	23

Photo by AP Photo/Dean Hare

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

10:50 ORE - LaMichael James 1 yd run (Dion Jordan rush), 13-80 4:10, ORE 8 - WSU 0
4:28 WSU - James Montgomery 26 yd run (Andrew Furney kick), 8-70 3:30, ORE 8 - WSU 7
3:40 WSU - Logwone Mitz 1 yd run (Andrew Furney kick), 2-6 0:40, ORE 8 - WSU 14
2:48 ORE - LaMichael James 84 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 3-80 0:52, ORE 15 - WSU 14

Second Quarter

8:25 ORE - Cliff Harris 67 yd punt return (Rob Beard kick), ORE 22 - WSU 14
4:44 WSU - Nico Grasu 50 yd field goal, 12-48 3:41, ORE 22 - WSU 17
2:17 ORE - LaMichael James 1 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 8-83 2:22, ORE 29 - WSU 17

Third Quarter

10:09 ORE - Nate Costa 18 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 8-70 3:18, ORE 36 - WSU 17
4:38 WSU - Dan Blackledge 11 yd pass from Jeff Tuel (Reid Forrest rush failed), 11-80 5:31, ORE 36 - WSU 23

Fourth Quarter

11:45 ORE - Jeff Maehl 34 yd pass from Nate Costa (Rob Beard kick), 10-91 3:46, ORE 43 - WSU 23

Photo by AP Photo/Dean Hare

John Boyett

Team Statistics

	ORE	WSU
FIRST DOWNS	22	21
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	40-252	36-91
PASSING YDS (NET)	304	245
Passes Att-Comp-Int	27-21-0	40-25-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	67-556	76-336
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	2-10
Punt Returns-Yards	4-83	1-3
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-48	3-50
Interception Returns-Yards	1-7	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-49.5	5-45.0
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	1-0
Penalties-Yards	9-80	5-31
Possession Time	25:30	34:30
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 12	7 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 3	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-26	1-8

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	25	142	6	136	2	55	5.4
Nate Costa	8	84	0	84	1	43	10.5
Kenjon Barner	1	18	0	18	0	18	18.0
Josh Huff	1	16	0	16	0	16	16.0
Darron Thomas	3	10	8	2	0	9	0.7

Washington State	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Logwone Mitz	15	65	10	55	1	19	3.7
James Montgomery	11	56	6	50	1	26	4.5
Chantz Staden	4	9	6	3	0	9	0.8
Jeff Tuel	6	9	26	-17	0	8	-2.8

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Nate Costa	13-15-0	151	1	34	0
Darron Thomas	8-12-0	153	1	84	1

Washington State	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Jeff Tuel	25-40-1	245	1	35	4

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	10	119	1	34
D.J. Davi	5	53	0	18
LaMichael James	2	87	1	84
David Paulson	1	19	0	19
Lavasier Tuinei	1	14	0	14
Malachi Lewis	1	9	0	9
Josh Huff	1	3	0	3

Washington State	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jared Karstetter	10	106	0	35
Marquess Wilson	4	57	0	30
Jeffrey Solomon	3	35	0	18
Dan Blackledge	3	27	1	11
Isiah Barton	2	13	0	9
Gino Simone	2	3	0	5
Logwone Mitz	1	4	0	4

OREGON VS. UCLA

Oct. 21, 2010 / 60-13 / Autzen Stadium / 59,372

When Oregon took the field against UCLA, it did so for the first time in school history as the No. 1 team in the country. The only thing the Ducks had to do was win impressively in front of a national television audience.

When the smoke settled, they did just that.

Behind three touchdown passes from Darron Thomas and three rushing scores from tailback Remene Alston, Oregon rolled up the yardage and the points en route to a 60-13 blowout win over UCLA on Thursday night. The win pushed the Ducks record to 7-0 on the season and moved them to 4-0 in the Pac-10.

"That was impressive," UCLA head coach Rick Neuheisel said. "I'll leave it at that. That was impressive."

From the initial kickoff until the final horn sounded, Oregon controlled the game. The Ducks halted UCLA's first drive of the opening quarter when quarterback Richard Brehaut, who replaced injured quarterback Kevin Prince as the team's starter, was picked off by safety John Boyett deep in Oregon territory.

That led to the Ducks' first score of the night, an 8-yard LaMichael James touchdown run, which capped off an eight-play, 90-yard drive.

After stopping UCLA on its next possession, the Ducks, primarily led by Thomas' crisp passing and James' running, marched down the field again on a 10-play, 77-yard drive, which was capped off by an Alston 1-yard run. Nate Costa scored on the two-point conversion attempt, which upped Oregon's lead to 15-0.

UCLA added a field goal on its ensuing drive to cut the lead to 15-3, but Oregon's fast-paced offense would strike again in lightning quick fashion just like it had on its previous two possessions. Josh Huff returned Jeff Locke's kickoff 23 yards back to the Oregon 30, but a face-mask penalty tacked on another 15 yards and set the Ducks up at their own 45.

With a 1st-and-10, James burst up the seam for a 27-yard run. Then, after Thomas connected with Lavasier Tuinei for a 6-yard completion, he hit Huff for a 22-yard touchdown pass to put the Ducks up 22-3 with 10:37 remaining in the second quarter.

Oregon would go on to score five more touchdowns following Thomas' first TD pass of the night.

David Paulson had a scoring reception in the second quarter; Jeff Maehl found paydirt in the third; James added his second touchdown run late in the third, and Alston added two 2-yard scoring runs in the fourth.

"They gave us some looks we could throw in," Thomas said. "Our receivers made good plays on the ball, a lot of wide-open guys."

Maehl ended the evening with a team-high eight catches for 107 yards. Paulson and D.J. Davis added four receptions each.

James, who sat out most of the first quarter with an apparent injury, rolled up 123 yards on 20 carries. Alston ended the night with eight carries for 75 yards, a 9.4-yard average.

Defensively, Oregon was led by defensive tackle Brandon Bair, Boyett, Michael Clay, Casey Matthews and Kenny Rowe.

The 6-7 Bair had a team-high eight tackles, including one for a loss of two yards. Boyett and Clay chipped in seven stops each, while Matthews added six tackles and a sack. Rowe, who was basically unblockable, had a sack, a forced fumble and 3.5 tackles for loss.

"We feel as the No. 1 other teams are going to come after us, but no matter what our ranking is we were the Pac-10 champions last year, so they'll still come after us," Matthews said.

Although UCLA has a 39-24 lead in the series, the Ducks have now won three straight.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

After leaving the game in the second quarter against Washington State, **Darron Thomas** bounced back in a big way. He completed 22 of 31 passes for 308 yards and three touchdowns in the win over UCLA. It was the first time in his career that Thomas eclipsed the 300-yard passing mark.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Defensive end **Kenny Rowe** was a force against the Bruins. The senior from Long Beach, Calif., racked up six tackles, 3.5 for loss, a sack and a forced fumble for an Oregon defense that held UCLA to just 290 total yards. The Ducks tallied three sacks on the night.

DEFINING MOMENT

Moments after UCLA kicked a 25-yard field goal to cut Oregon's lead to 15-3 with 11:04 left in the first quarter, the Ducks answered with a three-play, 55-yard touchdown drive to go up 22-3. Thomas found wideout Josh Huff for a 22-yard TD strike to finish off the drive.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
UCLA	0	3	3	7	13
OREGON	15	17	14	14	60

Photo by Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

9:15 ORE - LaMichael James 8 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 8-90 1:56, UCLA 0 - ORE 7
3:04 ORE - Remene Alston 1 yd run (Nate Costa rush), 10-77 2:35, UCLA 0 - ORE 15

Second Quarter

11:04 UCLA - Kai Forbath 25 yd field goal, 13-61 7:00, UCLA 3 - ORE 15
10:37 ORE - Josh Huff 22 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 3-55 0:27, UCLA 3 - ORE 22
3:34 ORE - David Paulson 6 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 11-85 3:18, UCLA 3 - ORE 29
0:42 ORE - Rob Beard 29 yd field goal, 8-65 1:47, UCLA 3 - ORE 32

Third Quarter

11:23 ORE - Jeff Maehl 3 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 11-67 3:37, UCLA 3 - ORE 39
5:35 UCLA - Kai Forbath 48 yd field goal, 9-51 5:48, UCLA 6 - ORE 39
1:41 ORE - LaMichael James 6 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 1-6 0:05, UCLA 6 - ORE 46

Fourth Quarter

13:41 ORE - Remene Alston 2 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 4-65 1:05, UCLA 6 - ORE 53
4:46 ORE - Remene Alston 2 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 1-2 0:07, UCLA 6 - ORE 60
1:53 UCLA - Richard Brehaut 6 yd run (Kai Forbath kick), 6-60 0:00, UCLA 13 - ORE 60

Photo by Peter Read Miller /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

John Boyett

Team Statistics

	UCLA	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	19	32
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	47-131	40-270
PASSING YDS (NET)	159	312
Passes Att-Comp-Int	23-16-1	33-24-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	70-290	73-582
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	1-4
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	4-19
Kickoff Returns-Yards	9-152	3-83
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-45.5	1-39.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-47	5-50
Possession Time	38:31	21:29
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 17	2 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	2 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	8-9
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	3-20

Individual Statistics

Rushing

UCLA	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Johnathan Franklin	21	75	6	69	0	15	3.3
Derrick Coleman	7	35	1	34	0	11	4.9
Malcolm Jones	10	38	7	31	0	21	3.1
Richard Brehaut	9	22	25	-3	1	9	-0.3
Oregon	**No**	**Gain**	**Loss**	**Net**	**TD**	**Lg**	**Avg**
LaMichael James	20	137	14	123	2	27	6.2
Remene Alston	8	75	0	75	3	42	9.4
Darron Thomas	5	48	0	48	0	22	9.6
Nate Costa	3	27	0	27	0	15	9.0
Josh Huff	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0

Passing

UCLA	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Sack
Richard Brehaut	16-23-1	159	0	26	3
Oregon	**Cmp-Att-Int**	**Yds**	**TD**	**Lg**	**Sack**
Darron Thomas	22-31-0	308	3	42	0
Nate Costa	2-2-0	4	0	4	0

Receiving

UCLA	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Cory Harkey	4	22	0	8
Randall Carroll	2	38	0	26
Taylor Embree	2	29	0	20
Johnathan Franklin	2	17	0	18
Ricky Marvray	2	9	0	5
Anthony Barr	1	17	0	17
Malcolm Jones	1	10	0	10
Christian Ramirez	1	10	0	10
Joseph Fauria	1	7	0	7
Oregon	**No.**	**Yds**	**TD**	**Lg**
Jeff Maehl	8	107	1	42
David Paulson	4	62	1	24
D.J. Davis	4	37	0	14
Lavasier Tuinei	3	40	0	22
Josh Huff	2	37	1	22
Daryle Hawkins	2	4	0	4
LaMichael James	1	25	0	25

OREGON VS. USC

Oct. 30, 2010 / 53-32 / L.A. Memorial Coliseum / 88,726

For a brief moment early in the third quarter, USC looked like it had a shot at upending the high-flying Ducks. But looks are quite often deceiving, especially when it comes to containing Oregon's offense.

"You could feel the momentum on our sideline," USC quarterback Matt Barkley said. "We had it, and we didn't capitalize on it."

Behind 239 yards rushing and three scores from LaMichael James, three TDs receiving by Jeff Maehl and another stellar performance by quarterback Darron Thomas, Oregon moved to 8-0 on the season and 4-0 in the Pac-10 with a 53-32 win over the 24th-ranked Trojans.

Thomas finished the night completing 19 of 32 passes for 288 yards and four TDs. The biggest one came with Oregon down by three early in the third quarter. That's when Thomas connected with Maehl for a 30-yard score. The scoring pass not only gave the Ducks the lead, 36-32, with 6:46 to go in the third quarter, but it began a run of three consecutive touchdown scoring drives in the second half.

"We have a tendency to wear people down," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "I'm not into statements. I'm just into winning games."

Maehl ended the night with eight catches for a career-high 145 yards. He also scored a TD in his sixth straight game and extended his streak of at least one catch in a game to 29.

Lavasier Tuinei, who caught a second quarter touchdown pass, chipped in seven catches for 78 yards and a score. Both were career-highs.

Barkley, who completed 26 of 49 passes for 264 yards and a touchdown, played a decent game, but his three costly turnovers (two interceptions, one fumble) hurt the Trojans chances. The biggest one came with USC inside the red zone and threatening to cut into Oregon's 46-32 lead over midway through the fourth quarter.

Faced with a 1st-and-10 at the Oregon 19-yard line, Barkley dropped back to pass and was intercepted by ball-hawking safety John Boyett — his third pick of the year and sixth one of his career — in the end zone. The play not only stopped the drive and prevented the Trojans from cutting into the Ducks lead, but it gave the ball back to Oregon's offense.

After the touchback, the Ducks offense went back to work. And that's when James, who had a career-high 36 carries, took over. The sophomore sensation capped off a seven-play, 80-yard drive in 2:45 with an 8-yard touchdown run to increase Oregon's lead to 53-32. On the scoring march, James carried the rock six times for 77 yards, proving his ability to shoulder the load late in games.

For USC, it was a game of missed opportunities.

"I thought it was two different teams, as far as us," USC coach Lane Kiffin said. "Our defense played well enough to win. Our offense wasn't very explosive, and they did a great job against us."

Oregon's win over the Trojans was its first at the Coliseum since a 28-17 victory on Oct. 14, 2000. The Ducks had three touchdown drives of five plays or less, giving Oregon 25 such drives out of 51 touchdown scoring drives on the year.

"It was a big-time game for us," said Thomas, who had touchdown passes of 15, 45, 33 and 30 yards. "I don't think Oregon had won in the Coliseum for so long, so it was one of those goals that we had put forward at the beginning of the season."

It's only the second time in Oregon's football history that a team began the season with eight straight wins. The last time it happened was in 1933.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

LaMichael James ran wild against the USC defense. The 5-9 sophomore became the fastest Oregon player to reach the 1,000-yard mark in terms of games played after he rushed for 239 yards and three touchdowns on 36 carries. Three other Ducks' ballcarriers have eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark in eight games.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Los Angeles native **Spencer Paysinger** sparked Oregon's defensive effort. The 6-3, 226-pound senior linebacker led the team in tackles with 12, which tied a career-high. Paysinger and fellow linebacker **Casey Matthews** combined for 22 stops. Freshman linebacker **Boseko Lokombo** also recovered his third fumble of the season.

DEFINING MOMENT

Shortly after USC took a 32-29 lead early in the third quarter, Oregon marched down the field on a 12-play, 69-yard scoring drive that ended with a Darron Thomas 30-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Maehl, which gave the Ducks a 36-32 lead. USC did not score again after that.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	8	21	14	10	53
USC	10	7	15	0	32

Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

11:42 USC - Joe Houston 32 yd field goal, 8-49 3:18, ORE 0 - USC 3
9:17 ORE - Jeff Maehl 15 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Brandon Bair pass from Nate Costa), 9-76 2:21, ORE 8 - USC 3
1:30 USC - Marc Tyler 1 yd run (Joe Houston kick), 5-48 2:43, ORE 8 - USC 10

Second Quarter

12:27 ORE - LaMichael James 42 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 2-46 0:22, ORE 15 - USC 10
8:50 USC - Marc Tyler 8 yd run (Joe Houston kick), 7-61 3:30, ORE 15 - USC 17
6:45 ORE - Jeff Maehl 45 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 1-45 0:09, ORE 22 - USC 17
1:10 ORE - Lavasier Tuinei 33 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 2-34 0:28, ORE 29 - USC 17

Third Quarter

13:43 USC - Ronald Johnson 5 yd pass from Matt Barkley (Joe Houston kick), 2-21 0:18, ORE 29 - USC 24
11:19 USC - Matt Barkley 1 yd run (Ronald Johnson pass from Matt Barkley), 4-11 1:23, ORE 29 - USC 32
6:46 ORE - Jeff Maehl 30 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 12-69 4:26, ORE 36 - USC 32
1:14 ORE - LaMichael James 2 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 11-82 4:03, ORE 43 - USC 32

Fourth Quarter

7:18 ORE - Rob Beard 34 yd field goal, 11-47 5:02, ORE 46 - USC 32
2:45 ORE - LaMichael James 8 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 7-80 2:40, ORE 53 - USC 32

Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

Jeff Maehl

Team Statistics

	ORE	USC
FIRST DOWNS	29	27
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	50-311	36-113
PASSING YDS (NET)	288	264
Passes Att-Comp-Int	32-19-1	49-26-2
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	82-599	85-377
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	3-54	4-94
Kickoff Returns-Yards	5-117	8-200
Interception Returns-Yards	2-3	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-46.4	5-45.2
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	8-85	3-22
Possession Time	27:25	32:35
Third-Down Conversions	11 of 17	7 of 17
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-4	5-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-7	1-2

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	36	249	10	239	3	45	6.6
Darron Thomas	8	47	5	42	0	21	5.2
Josh Huff	2	28	0	28	0	20	14.0
Remene Alston	2	5	1	4	0	5	2.0
Jeff Maehl	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0

USC	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Marc Tyler	17	73	4	69	2	10	4.1
Stanley Havili	10	42	4	38	0	12	3.8
Dillon Baxter	2	14	0	14	0	10	7.0
Allen Bradford	3	9	0	9	0	5	3.0
Matt Barkley	4	1	18	-17	1	1	-4.2

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	19-32-1	288	4	57	1

USC	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Matt Barkley	26-49-2	264	1	25	2

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	8	145	3	45
Lavasier Tuinei	7	78	1	33
Josh Huff	1	57	0	57
David Paulson	1	8	0	8
Remene Alston	1	2	0	2
LaMichael James	1	-2	0	0

USC	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Robert Woods	7	59	0	17
Ronald Johnson	4	65	1	25
Stanley Havili	4	27	0	14
Marc Tyler	3	16	0	12
Brandon Carswell	2	30	0	16
David Ausberry	2	26	0	18
Rhett Ellison	2	26	0	17
Jordan Cameron	2	15	0	11

OREGON VS. WASHINGTON

Nov. 6, 2010 / 53-16 / Autzen Stadium / 60,017

"Weird" was how Oregon offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich described the team's scoreless first quarter.

Tailback LaMichael James also felt something was up, though he couldn't come to grips on what it was.

"I don't know, it was something," James said. "We really weren't playing up to our standards. You're going to have that adversity when you're playing football. This was a really sloppy game. We had so many penalties."

Despite being held scoreless in the opening quarter for the first time in 2010, Oregon regrouped from the second quarter on to come away with a 53-16 victory in front of 60,017 fans — the largest crowd in Autzen Stadium's history.

The win moved the Ducks to 9-0 for the first time in 115 seasons, and it pushed Oregon's record to 6-0 in the Pac-10.

Darron Thomas and James were the stars of the show offensively for the Ducks. James racked up 121 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries to move into third place on Oregon's all-time career rushing list, while Thomas added 332 yards of total offense (243 passing yards, 89 rushing yards) and three touchdowns (two rushing, one passing). It was James' seventh 100-yard game of the season, and he also extended his school record of 16 games with at least 100 yards for his career.

"He missed a couple (of passes), but that's the thing about Darron (Thomas), he bounces right back," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "He gets better every game. I'm really happy where he is at right now. He's one of the great quarterbacks in this league and no one really talks about him."

Wideout Jeff Maehl extended his string of games with at least one reception to 30. He also broke into Oregon's top 10 list for career receiving yards after hauling in a team-high seven catches for 71 yards and a score.

Lavasier Tuinei added seven catches for 47 yards. David Paulson had three grabs for 41 yards, and D.J. Davis had two receptions for 57 yards.

Kenjon Barner, who ran for 60 yards and a score on nine carries, returned to action for the first time since being injured in the team's win at Washington State. His presence not only helped James out in the backfield, but it also gave the Ducks one of their big play specialists back, as evidenced by his 30-yard touchdown run with 4:34 left in the game, which pushed Oregon's lead to 53-16.

"Kenjon helps me a lot," said James, who also added three receptions for 19 yards. "Even when he wasn't playing last week, I think he helps me more than the coaches."

Defensively, the Ducks stymied a Washington offense playing without the injured Jake Locker. Redshirt freshman Keith Price, who was making his first career start, got the nod for Locker, but he was knocked around on more than one occasion. He completed 14 of 28 passes for 127 yards and a score, but was sacked six times, which set a new season-high for the Oregon defense.

"I thought he (Price) battled and competed," Washington coach Steve Sarkisian said. "There's always going to be plays where I wish our guys could have bailed him out a little and helped him out. There were a couple drops here and there. There's going to be plays when he sees the film, he wishes he could have back. But for his first start, on the road, at Autzen Stadium, against the number one team in the country, I'll take his effort."

With the win, Oregon improved to 21-3 in Pac-10 play since the beginning of the 2008 season. It was also the Ducks 15th straight win at home.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Quarterback **Darron Thomas** set a new career mark for completions (24) and equaled his career mark in attempts (33) en route to a 243-yard passing day. Thomas also added 89 yards and two TDs on the ground for a Ducks offense that piled up 279 yards rushing

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Cornerback **Talmadge Jackson** recorded eight tackles, including six solo, in the Ducks 37-point romp over the Huskies. The 5-10, 182-pound junior from Murrieta, California tied linebacker Casey Matthews for the team lead in tackles and was a big part of a solid defensive effort that held Washington to 16 points.

DEFINING MOMENT

Moments after Washington kicker Erik Folk cut Oregon's lead to 25-16 with a 47-yard field goal midway through the third quarter, Oregon went on a nine-play, 76-yard touchdown scoring march. LaMichael James capped the 3:04 drive with a 14-yard TD run, which began a string of four consecutive touchdown-scoring drives for Oregon.

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

Second Quarter

13:22 ORE - Rob Beard 29 yd field goal, 9-76 2:22, WASH 0 - ORE 3
8:44 WASH - Erik Folk 52 yd field goal, 4-3 1:14, WASH 3 - ORE 3
5:13 ORE - LaMichael James 1 yd run (Rob Beard rush), 10-62 3:31, WASH 3 - ORE 11
1:37 ORE - Darron Thomas 34 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 2-51 0:22, WASH 3 - ORE 18
0:09 WASH - Erik Folk 27 yd field goal, 9-60 1:28, WASH 6 - ORE 18

Third Quarter

13:11 WASH - D'Andre Goodwin 17 yd pass from Keith Price (Erik Folk kick), 1-17 0:08, WASH 13 - ORE 18
12:50 ORE - Jeff Maehl 6 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 1-6 0:21, WASH 13 - ORE 25
6:14 WASH - Erik Folk 47 yd field goal, 8-48 3:19, WASH 16 - ORE 25
3:10 ORE - LaMichael James 14 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 9-76 3:04, WASH 16 - ORE 32
0:24 ORE - Darron Thomas 7 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 5-54 1:24, WASH 16 - ORE 39

Fourth Quarter

10:52 ORE - LaMichael James 1 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 5-16 1:08, WASH 16 - ORE 46
4:34 ORE - Kenjon Barner 30 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 11-90 3:52, WASH 16 - ORE 53

Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

Kenny Rowe

Team Statistics

	WASH	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	14	31
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	37-136	55-279
PASSING YDS (NET)	127	243
Passes Att-Comp-Int	28-14-0	33-24-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	65-263	88-522
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	4-127
Kickoff Returns-Yards	7-162	5-184
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	10-41.4	2-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	12-84	10-107
Possession Time	29:25	30:35
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 16	6 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	6-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-12	5-32

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Washington	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Chris Polk	17	81	4	77	0	31	4.5
Jesse Callier	7	55	0	55	0	25	7.9
Keith Price	13	36	32	4	0	14	0.3

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	26	123	2	121	3	16	4.7
Darron Thomas	12	102	13	89	2	34	7.4
Kenjon Barner	9	61	1	60	1	30	6.7
Remene Alston	6	25	1	24	0	7	4.0
Nate Costa	1	0	14	-14	0	0	-14.0

Passing

Washington	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Keith Price	14-28-0	127	1	28	5

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	24-33-0	243	1	38	2

Receiving

Washington	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Devin Aguilar	5	71	0	28
D'Andre Goodwin	3	44	1	17
Jermaine Kearse	2	6	0	6
Jesse Callier	2	4	0	2
Chris Polk	2	2	0	2

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	7	71	1	21
Lavasier Tuinei	7	47	0	17
David Paulson	3	41	0	20
LaMichael James	3	19	0	8
D.J. Davis	2	57	0	38
Justin Hoffman	1	9	0	9
Kenjon Barner	1	-1	0	0

OREGON VS. CALIFORNIA

Nov. 13, 2010 / 15-13 / Memorial Stadium / 65,963

With the score 15-13, Cal kicker Giorgio Tavecchio was all set to give the Bears the lead early in the fourth quarter. But someone forget to tell the junior kicker that he couldn't move just split seconds before the ball was snapped.

After making what would've been the go-ahead field goal with 14:52 left in the game, Tavecchio was called for an illegal motion penalty, which moved the ball back from the Oregon 7-yard line to the 12. Tavecchio then missed his second attempt and Oregon controlled the ball and the clock the rest of the way to hang on for a hard-fought 15-13 win in front of a stunned crowd at Memorial Stadium.

"There's no excuse for that," Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "We kick field goals every day. There's no excuse for jumping the gun like that. It's poise under pressure, and we didn't have it right there."

Punt/kick returner extraordinaire Cliff Harris provided the Ducks only touchdown in the first half when he broke loose on a 64-yard punt return midway through the second quarter. Dion Jordan then added a huge two-point conversion attempt to give Oregon an 8-7 lead. It was Harris' fourth punt return for a touchdown on the season, which tied him with former Cal star DeSean Jackson (2006) for the Pac-10 single-season record for punt returns for TDs.

"Every game isn't going to be a 50-point blowout," said Harris, who added a tackle and a pass breakup on defense. "You need luck sometimes, but luck favors the prepared."

Early in the third quarter, Oregon defensive lineman Zac Clark jarred the ball loose from Cal tailback Shane Vereen and Kenny Rowe jumped on the loose ball to give Oregon a 1st-and-10 at the Cal 29-yard line. On the ensuing play, Darron Thomas connected with Jeff Maehl for a 29-yard touchdown pass to give the Ducks a 14-7 lead. Rob Beard added the extra point and Oregon led 15-7 with the entire half to go.

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Jeff Maehl's third quarter touchdown reception turned out to be the game-winner as Oregon barely escaped an upset bid by Cal. Maehl set a new Ducks record with 11 TD receptions in a season, and tied Steve Bunker's (1965) OU record by recording a scoring reception in seven straight games.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Talmadge Jackson, **Casey Matthews** and **John Boyett** all tied for a team-high seven tackles in the win over Cal. Talmadge also added a pass breakup, while Matthews added a tackle for loss. Jackson, Matthews and Boyett played a big role in Oregon's defense holding the Bears under 200 total yards.

DEFINING MOMENT

Cal kicker Giorgio Tavecchio thought he gave the Bears the lead early in the fourth quarter when he knocked in a chip shot field goal from the left hash, but an illegal motion call on him forced the junior to re-kick. Tavecchio then pushed the second attempt wide right.

On Oregon's next possession, the Ducks drove to the Cal 31-yard line, but Beard missed a 48-yard field goal wide right. On Cal's ensuing possession, Oregon's defense stiffened and forced a Bryan Anger 47-yard punt, which was fair caught by Harris at the Ducks 12-yard line.

Thomas and the Oregon offense then went back to work backed up to their own goal line. Facing a 1st-and-10, Thomas dropped back to pass but was hit by defensive lineman Derrick Hill, who forced a fumble. Hill fell on the loose ball in the end zone, cutting the Ducks lead to 15-13 with 9:05 in the third. The Bears attempted to tie the game at 15 all, but the two-point conversion failed and Oregon maintained the lead.

Cal came close to finding the end zone again after it went on an impressive drive late in the third quarter and into the beginning stages of the fourth, but Tavecchio missed the chip shot field goal and Oregon dodged defeat for the first time all season.

Defensively, Talmadge Jackson, Casey Matthews and John Boyett tied for the team lead in tackles with seven. Defensive end Taylor Hart also added a tackle for loss and a sack.

"I wasn't expecting that, especially in the second half," Matthews said. "It feels really good to come through for the offense this time. We did pretty good, but we should do that every week, no matter what the offense does."

Oregon's 15 points were the fewest since it scored eight in the season opener against Boise State in 2009.

The Ducks improved to 19-0 when leading after three quarters under head coach Chip Kelly.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	0	8	7	0	15
CALIFORNIA	7	0	6	0	13

Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

10:29 CAL - Shane Vereen 1 yd run (Giorgio Tavecchio kick), 6-49 2:16, ORE 0 - CAL 7

Second Quarter

6:34 ORE - Cliff Harris 64 yd punt return (Dion Jordan rush), ORE 8 - CAL 7

Third Quarter

14:29 ORE - Jeff Maehl 29 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 1-29 0:08, ORE 15 - CAL 7
09:05 CAL - Derrick Hill 0 yd fumble recovery, ORE 15 - CAL 13

Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

Cliff Harris

Team Statistics

	ORE	CAL
FIRST DOWNS	20	13
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	55-162	31-124
PASSING YDS (NET)	155	69
Passes Att-Comp-Int	29-15-0	28-10-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	84-317	59-193
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-79	1-8
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-67	3-67
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-42.4	8-43.6
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	8-62	4-25
Possession Time	32:42	27:18
Third-Down Conversions	8 of 21	4 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	4 of 6	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-2	1-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-4	2-12

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	29	101	10	91	0	13	3.1
Kenjon Barner	8	40	0	40	0	8	5.0
Darron Thomas	16	62	28	34	0	11	2.1

California	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Shane Vereen	26	124	12	112	1	31	4.3
Marvin Jones	1	12	0	12	0	12	12.0
Jeremy Ross	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
Brock Mansion	2	3	4	-1	0	3	-0.5

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	15-29-0	155	1	29	2

California	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Brock Mansion	10-28-0	69	0	17	1

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	5	84	1	29
D.J. Davis	4	42	0	15
Josh Huff	2	12	0	10
LaMichael James	2	11	0	6
Kenjon Barner	2	6	0	6

California	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Marvin Jones	3	24	0	17
Jeremy Ross	2	14	0	8
Keenan Allen	2	11	0	9
Shane Vereen	1	10	0	10
Anthony Miller	1	6	0	6
Will Kapp	1	4	0	4

OREGON VS. ARIZONA

Nov. 26, 2010 / 48-29 / Autzen Stadium / 59,990

There were the Oregon Ducks, the No. 1 team in America, trailing a fired-up Arizona team 19-14 at halftime. At stake was the undefeated season, at least a share of the Pac-10 championship, the No. 1 ranking in the polls, the BCS rankings and the national championship.

That's all.

"Trust me, it's not by design that we're down at halftime," said Oregon coach Chip Kelly. "These guys take a lot of pride in the tempo and pace that we practice and that we'll eventually wear people down."

And that's exactly what happened.

"We know sometimes we come out a little slow," said wide receiver Jeff Maehl. "But the way we condition and practice, we know we can wear people down in the second half and beat people that way."

The Ducks blew the Wildcats away 34-10 in the second half and kept all their goals and hopes alive.

"Number 4 (on our locker room door) is flip the switch," Kelly said. "And we're pretty good at flipping the switch. You saw us crank it up there a few times when it's hard for them to respond."

It didn't take Oregon long to flip the switch in the second half. Josh Huff got it started with an 85-yard touchdown run to give the Ducks the lead at 20-19.

"I haven't had a bigger play than that; it was good to get the team back on track," said Huff. "Every time I touch the ball I want to make a play."

"Big time players make big time plays, and he's a big time player," LaMichael James said of Huff.

On the next possession, Oregon added on with a 20-yard touchdown run by quarterback Darron Thomas. Arizona got a 41-yard field goal by Alex Zendejas, but the Ducks then salted the game away with three straight scores.

In the final minute of the third quarter, Thomas connected with D.J. Davis on a 6-yard touchdown pass and then James added two fourth quarter touchdowns, the first on a 13-yard run and the last on a 1-yard run.

James was injured in the first half, but was able to come back in the second half and finish the game with 126 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

"He hit me helmet to helmet," said James of the injury. "He hit me in the eye and it swelled up and it was hard for me to see, but it got better in the second half. I was fine, I wanted to go back in and contribute to the team.

"I'm going to give a 110% of what I have to give and I just want to win and we did. Our defense made big plays; they make big plays week in and week out, especially in the red zone."

The victory clinched at least a Rose Bowl bid, but Oregon still had its eyes on a bigger prize.

"This is a big accomplishment being back-to-back Pac-10 champions, but you can't celebrate too hard," said Thomas. "We don't really take it for granted. We came out hard in the first half, but the defense was giving us some good looks."

Cornerback Cliff Harris, in the midst of a brilliant season, puts each game behind him as soon as it is over.

"Short-term memory," Harris explained. "Every game is a one-game season. Everyone wants to talk about the distractions, but we don't buy into that. We have good work ethic; we all worked hard and came out on top. It's remarkable to see our hard work is paying off and we're only one game away from the National Championship."

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Sophomore running back **LaMichael James** had 126 yards rushing and scored two touchdowns. His two rushing touchdowns gave him a school single-season record with 19. It was his eighth 100-yard game of the season and 17th of his career.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Sophomore free safety **John Boyett** led Oregon with seven solo tackles and eight total and he picked off a Nick Foles pass. The Oregon defense gave up 506 yards of total offense, including 448 through the air, but the Ducks defense got tough near the goal line.

DEFINING MOMENT

Arizona had a 19-14 lead at the half and had Oregon backed up to its 15-yard line. But the lead, and the momentum, changed on one play. Josh Huff took a handoff and broke free for an 85-yard touchdown run to give the Ducks a lead they never relinquished.

SCOREBOARD	1	2	3	4	T
ARIZONA	14	5	3	7	29
OREGON	7	7	20	14	48

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

4:47 ARIZ - Juron Criner 8 yd pass from Nick Foles (Alex Zendejas kick), 16-60 7:42, ARIZ 7 - ORE 0
3:12 ORE - David Paulson 38 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 4-56 1:35, ARIZ 7 - ORE 7
2:51 ARIZ - Juron Criner 85 yd pass from Nick Foles (Alex Zendejas kick), 1-85 0:21, ARIZ 14 - ORE 7

Second Quarter

14:04 ORE - Jeff Maehl 6 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 10-53 3:47, ARIZ 14 - ORE 14
9:56 ARIZ - Team safety, , ARIZ 16 - ORE 14
0:04 ARIZ - Alex Zendejas 29 yd field goal, 13-80 5:35, ARIZ 19 - ORE 14

Third Quarter

13:30 ORE - Josh Huff 85 yd run (Darron Thomas pass failed), 2-85 0:19, ARIZ 19 - ORE 20
4:44 ORE - Darron Thomas 20 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 19-99 6:07, ARIZ 19 - ORE 27
2:46 ARIZ - Alex Zendejas 41 yd field goal, 7-50 1:58, ARIZ 22 - ORE 27
0:36 ORE - D.J. Davis 6 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 6-75 2:10, ARIZ 22 - ORE 34

Fourth Quarter

12:46 ORE - LaMichael James 13 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 5-35 1:31, ARIZ 22 - ORE 41
12:15 ORE - LaMichael James 1 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 2-8 0:21, ARIZ 22 - ORE 48
10:45 ARIZ - David Roberts 32 yd pass from Nick Foles (Alex Zendejas kick), 6-81 1:30, ARIZ 29 - ORE 48

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Josh Huff

Team Statistics

	ARIZ	ORE
FIRST DOWNS	28	27
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	27-58	57-389
PASSING YDS (NET)	448	148
Passes Att-Comp-Int	54-29-1	24-14-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	81-506	81-537
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	2--13
Kickoff Returns-Yards	9-91	5-85
Interception Returns-Yards	1-22	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-37.2	1-30.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	10-80	4-31
Possession Time	29:27	30:33
Third-Down Conversions	10 of 19	6 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	4 of 5
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-3	5-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	1-7

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Arizona	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Nic Grigsby	16	49	5	44	0	7	2.8
Keola Antolin	8	21	4	17	0	11	2.1
Nick Foles	3	4	7	-3	0	2	-1.0

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	28	138	12	126	2	37	4.5
Josh Huff	3	103	0	103	1	85	34.3
Kenjon Barner	15	77	6	71	0	25	4.7
Darron Thomas	6	62	0	62	1	24	10.3
Remene Alston	4	46	2	44	0	36	11.0

Passing

Arizona	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Nick Foles	29-54-1	448	3	85	1

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	14-24-1	148	3	38	0

Receiving

Arizona	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Terrence Miller	8	96	0	27
David Douglas	5	81	0	38
David Roberts	5	64	1	32
Nic Grigsby	4	39	0	16
Juron Criner	3	109	2	85
Travis Cobb	2	46	0	31
Keola Antolin	1	8	0	8
Greg Nwoko	1	5	0	5

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
David Paulson	3	48	1	38
D.J. Davis	3	31	1	15
LaMichael James	3	20	0	14
Jeff Maehl	2	27	1	21
Josh Huff	2	18	0	13
Justin Hoffman	1	4	0	4

OREGON VS. OREGON STATE

Dec. 4, 2010 / 37-20 / Reser Stadium / 46,469

When Oregon went to Corvallis, the Ducks knew they would have their hands full. Oregon State came into the game 5-6 and needed a victory to reach bowl eligibility. Oregon had an undefeated season and a place in the BCS National Championship Game at stake.

And, of course, whenever these two rivals square off on the football field, it promises to be a war regardless of the stakes. And it was — a Civil War.

Oregon State came out determined to stop Oregon's magical season. The Beavers got in front early, but then the relentless Oregon offense, which sputtered a little early on, wore down the Beavers and built a 37-13 lead in the fourth quarter.

It hardly mattered to Oregon fans when Oregon State added a late score to make the final margin 37-20. By that time, the Duck faithful at Reser Stadium were busy texting folks back home to make reservations in Glendale.

The Ducks were going to Arizona to play for the crystal football. It hardly mattered to them that Auburn was punching its ticket to Glendale by romping South Carolina in the SEC Championship Game. It only mattered that the Ducks would be there.

"I think it's a testament to these players," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said. "They've been able to focus every single week on the game at hand. I told 'em we'll pick our head up at the end of the season and see where we are, and we're fortunate enough to be 12-0. All the credit goes to the kids. They're awesome."

Winning the Civil War is always important to Oregon players. This time with so much at stake, it was even moreso.

"I'm just really happy, really happy for everybody else," said sophomore quarterback Darron Thomas, who finished 14-of-24 for 145 yards and two touchdowns. "The offensive line did a good job all year being banged up all year. They finished the year with the same starters that we started with and I think they did a good job. Our defense also came out this year and did a tremendous job. I'm just happy for everybody; happy for the Duck fans, and happy for everybody who supported us."

Oregon took the season one week at a time; it was a theme for this team. Kelly refused to let the players look ahead and tried to keep them focused on remaining undefeated by winning the next game.

"Because of the brotherhood of the team, the love of the team and not losing for each other and playing for each other," Thomas said explaining what kept this team on track week after week. "That's the main thing. Once you look ahead at outside influences, that's what messes you up. We just worry about each game and the team we are playing that week."

Now, though, the Ducks can look ahead to a battle with Auburn for the national championship.

"We're not going to play a national championship right now, we're going to prepare for one," said Kelly. "And we'll play the game on the 10th (of January). But we got to this point we're at now by our preparation and we know we're going to have to go to work for the next month to show up on the 10th. And that's what these players are all about; they understand the task at hand and they accept it heartily."

Oregon got to this point by relying on its pressure offense and big-play defense. Against Oregon State, the Ducks got a slow start and fell behind 7-0 with under three and a half minutes to play in the first quarter.

"This is one of the great rivalries in college football," said Kelly. "We

KEY OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Kenjon Barner, the 5-11, 180-pound speedster from Riverside, Calif., was the main man for the Ducks. He rushed 15 times for 133 yards, an 8.9-yard per carry average, and scored two touchdowns, one on a 3-yard pass from Darron Thomas and one on a 23-yard run.

KEY DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Talmadge Jackson, a 5-10, 188-pound senior from Murrieta, Calif., had eight tackles and intercepted a pass that he returned 52 yards to the Oregon State 12-yard line. That set up a 36-yard go-ahead field goal by Rob Beard that gave the Ducks a 9-7 lead. They never trailed again.

DEFINING MOMENT

Early in the fourth quarter, consecutive field goals by Oregon State cut the Ducks' lead to 23-13. A pass interference call gave Oregon a first down at the Oregon 46. Four plays later, Kenjon Barner scored on a 23-yard run to make it 30-13 and the air went out of the Beavers.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	T
OREGON	6	10	7	14	37
OREGON STATE	7	0	3	10	20

Photo by Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images

expected everything from them and they gave it to us. They faked a field goal. We faked a punt. We had some turnovers early. They had some turnovers early. I was hoping we were going to score some points so we weren't going to be on the Toilet Bowl schedule (final score 0-0, 1983 game), but that's where we were early in the game."

Oregon scored a touchdown on a 3-yard pass from Thomas to Kenjon Barner in the final minute of the first quarter, but Oregon State blocked Rob Beard's point-after attempt and held the 7-6 lead until Beard put the Ducks ahead for good with a 36-yard field goal 12:09 before halftime. The field goal was set up by Talmadge Jackson's interception and 52-yard return to the Beaver's 12-yard line.

Oregon State would never regain the lead.

LaMichael James added an 8-yard touchdown run before the half and Thomas hit D.J. Davis with a 19-yard scoring pass in the third quarter. Oregon State mounted a brief rally with two field goals, but a pass interference call against the Beavers in the fourth quarter gave Oregon a first down at the Ducks' 46-yard line and helped extinguish the Beavers rally. Four plays later, Barner scored on a 23-yard run and James capped the Oregon scoring with a 10-yard TD run later in the quarter.

"We ran for 350 (actually 346 yards) today," said Kelly. "It's what we do; it's what we hang our hat on."

Barner and James were the big guns offensively. Barner had 133 yards on 15 carries and James had 134 yards on 28 carries. Barner had one touchdown rushing and one TD reception, while both of James' scores came on the ground.

"Kenjon's a great player," said James. "He came into the game and he got some long runs; it really helps to have us both because we can always have fresh legs."

"He's there for me," said Barner. "Whenever he gets tired, I go in and I do what I can for the team and I know that LaMichael is going to make it happen, so I have to come in and try to keep up with him. They couldn't just focus on LaMichael or they couldn't focus on Darron or our receivers, so it opened lanes and it opened up a lot for me."

Now the Ducks can focus strictly on the national championship game and trying to break the stranglehold the Southeastern Conference has had on the BCS national title the past four years.

"Who can say a conference is better than another conference or anything like that?" asked Barner "We're just going to go out and play how we have to play."

Photo by Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

3:23 OSU - Jacquizz Rodgers 6 yd pass from Ryan Katz (Justin Kahut kick), 15-62 7:36, ORE 0 - OSU 7
0:40 ORE - Kenjon Barner 3 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick blocked), 9-60 2:43, ORE 6 - OSU 7

Second Quarter

12:09 ORE - Rob Beard 36 yd field goal, 4-(-7) 0:52, ORE 9 - OSU 7
7:03 ORE - LaMichael James 8 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 7-74 1:48, ORE 16 - OSU 7

Third Quarter

8:39 ORE - Davis, D.J. 19 yd pass from Darron Thomas (Rob Beard kick), 7-79 1:43, ORE 23 - OSU 7
4:51 OSU - Justin Kahut 26 yd field goal, 11-65 3:42, ORE 23 - OSU 10

Fourth Quarter

14:50 OSU - Justin Kahut 22 yd field goal, 8-38 2:38, ORE 23 - OSU 13
12:16 ORE - Kenjon Barner 23 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 6-71 2:30, ORE 30 - OSU 13
4:27 ORE - LaMichael James 10 yd run (Rob Beard kick), 5-43 2:43, ORE 37 - OSU 13
1:18 OSU - Markus Wheaton 12 yd pass from Ryan Katz (Justin Kahut kick), 8-67 3:03, ORE 37 - OSU 20

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Casey Matthews and Wade Keliikipi

Team Statistics

	ORE	OSU
FIRST DOWNS	25	20
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	49-346	29-90
PASSING YDS (NET)	145	229
Passes Att-Comp-Int	24-14-0	43-24-4
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	73-491	72-319
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-2	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-41	7-187
Interception Returns-Yards	4-72	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-39.0	4-47.2
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-61	5-53
Possession Time	27:52	32:08
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 11	7 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 3	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	5-6	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-14	0-0

Individual Statistics

Rushing

Oregon	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
LaMichael James	28	145	11	134	2	31	4.8
Kenjon Barner	15	136	3	133	1	23	8.9
Michael Clay	1	64	0	64	0	64	64.0
Josh Huff	2	21	0	21	0	17	10.5
Darron Thomas	1	0	4	-4	0	0	-4.0

Oregon State	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
Jacquizz Rodgers	22	96	9	87	0	13	4.0
Markus Wheaton	2	8	0	8	0	4	4.0
Ryan Katz	5	10	15	-5	0	10	-1.0

Passing

Oregon	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Darron Thomas	14-24-0	145	2	26	0

Oregon State	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Ryan Katz	23-40-3	224	2	21	3
Cody Vaz	1-2-0	5	0	5	0
Johnny Hekker	0-1-1	0	0	0	0

Receiving

Oregon	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Jeff Maehl	7	86	0	26
D.J. Davis	3	47	1	21
Kenjon Barner	2	1	1	3
Josh Huff	1	9	0	9
Justin Hoffman	1	2	0	2

Oregon State	No.	Yds	TD	Lg
Markus Wheaton	10	137	1	21
Jacquizz Rodgers	5	20	1	8
Jordan Bishop	4	48	0	20
Aaron Nichols	2	6	0	6
Joe Halahuni	1	14	0	14
Brady Camp	1	5	0	5
Jordan Jenkins	1	-1	0	0

2010 OREGON DUCKS STARTERS

OFFENSE

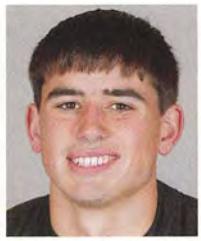
BO THRAN
Left Tackle
6-5 | 281 | Sr.

CARSON YORK
Left Guard
6-5 | 286 | So.

JORDAN HOLMES
Center
6-5 | 300 | Sr.

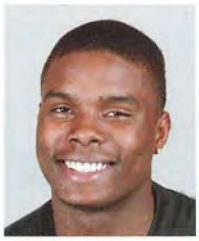
C.E. KAISER
Right Guard
6-4 | 290 | Sr.

MARK ASPER
Right Tackle
6-7 | 322 | Jr.



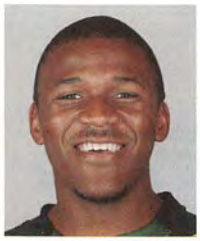
DAVID PAULSON
Tight End
6-4 | 241 | Jr.

JEFF MAEHL
Wide Receiver
6-1 | 184 | Sr.

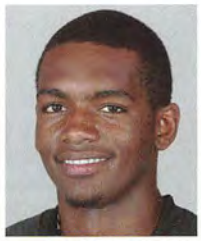


JOSH HUFF
Wide Receiver
5-11 | 201 | Fr.

D.J. DAVIS
Wide Receiver
6-1 | 205 | Sr.



LaMICHAEL JAMES
Running Back
5-9 | 185 | So.



DARRON THOMAS
Quarterback
6-3 | 212 | So.

ROB BEARD
Placekicker
6-0 | 218 | So.

DEFENSE

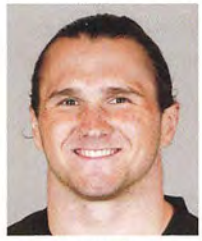
TERRELL TURNER
Defensive End
6-3 | 261 | Jr.

ZAC CLARK
Defensive Tackle
6-2 | 270 | Sr.

BRANDON BAIR
Defensive Tackle
6-7 | 272 | Sr.

KENNY ROWE
Defensive End
6-3 | 232 | Sr.

SPENCER PAYSINGER
Weakside Linebacker
6-3 | 231 | Sr.

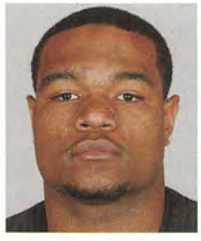


CASEY MATTHEWS
Middle Linebacker
6-2 | 235 | Sr.

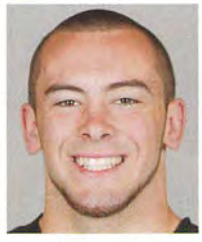
JOSH KADDU
Strongside Linebacker
6-3 | 235 | Jr.

CLIFF HARRIS
Cornerback
5-11 | 180 | So.

TALMADGE JACKSON III
Cornerback
5-10 | 188 | Sr.



EDDIE PLEASANT
Strong Safety
5-11 | 213 | Jr.



JOHN BOYETT
Free Safety
5-10 | 198 | So.

JACKSON RICE
Punter
6-3 | 220 | So.

2010 ASSISTANT COACHES

Nick Aliotti

Defensive Coordinator

Nicki Aliotti is in his third stint coaching at Oregon. A three-year letterman at UC-Davis, he has served 19 years on the Ducks staff. His defenses helped Oregon to the Rose Bowl in 1994 and 2009. He also served as defensive coordinator at UCLA for one season, and was a defensive assistant and special teams coach for the St. Louis Rams from 1995-1997.

Jerry Azzinaro

Defensive Line

Jerry Azzinaro is in his second season coaching in Eugene. He came to Oregon from Marshall where he was also the defensive line coach. A former linebacker at American International College, his 28-year career includes stops at Duke (defensive coordinator), Massachusetts, Syracuse, New Hampshire and Boston College. He served as head coach at Division III Western New England College in 1986.

Gary Campbell

Running Backs

Gary Campbell just completed his 28th season coaching at Oregon. His teams have led the Pac-10 in rushing for five consecutive seasons and he has coached 12 of Oregon's 14 all-time 1,000-yard career rushers. The former UCLA starting fullback was a three-year graduate assistant at his alma mater and coached one year at Pacific before joining the Ducks staff in 1983.

Scott Frost

Wide Receivers

Scott Frost uniquely understands wide receivers and national championships. As starting quarterback, he led Nebraska to the 1997 national title after playing his first two seasons at Stanford. This is his second year as the Ducks receivers coach. He played six seasons with four teams in the NFL, and was co-defensive coordinator at Northern Iowa in 2008 before joining the Ducks staff.

Steve Greatwood

Assistant Head Coach / Offensive Line

Steve Greatwood has coached the Oregon offensive line for 19 seasons during his 30-year career. A Eugene native, he played for the Ducks. After coaching the Oregon offensive line for 15 years, he joined the St. Louis Rams staff of former Ducks coach Rich Brooks, then coached at Maryland and Southern California before returning to his alma mater in 2000 as defensive line coach.

Mark Helfrich

Offensive Coordinator

Mark Helfrich completed his second season on the Oregon staff, serving as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He had the same role for the three previous seasons at Colorado. A former Southern Oregon quarterback, he coached at his alma mater before being the offensive coordinator for the Vienna (Austria) Vikings in 1997. He also coached quarterbacks at Boise State and Arizona State.

2010 ASSISTANT COACHES

John Neal
Secondary

John Neal, who has eight years on the Oregon staff, has 26 years of college coaching experience. An All-WAC defensive back at Brigham Young, he started as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, then coached at New Mexico from 1981-1985. Prior to coming to Oregon, he was defensive backs coach at UAB for eight seasons. He has also coached at Pacific, East Tennessee State and Oregon State.

Tom Osborne
Tight Ends / Special Teams

Tom Osborne has coached nine years at Oregon during two stints in Eugene. A former Washington State wide receiver, his career started as a graduate assistant at his alma mater. He coached at Portland State for six years, then coached at Boise State. He served in Eugene from 1995-2000. He was assistant head coach at Arizona State for six seasons, before returning to Oregon in 2007.

Don Pellum
Linebackers / Recruiting Coordinator

Don Pellum has been on the Ducks coaching staff for 24 seasons, now coaching linebackers and coordinating recruiting efforts. A former Oregon starting linebacker, Pellum has worked at his alma mater for all but four seasons since his playing career ended in 1984. He served as recruiting coordinator at California from 1990-1992. His efforts have resulted in some of the highest ranked recruiting classes in Oregon history.

Jim Radcliffe
Head Strength and Conditioning Coach

Jim Radcliffe, who just completed his 26th season as the Ducks' head strength and conditioning coach, has played a significant role in the re-emergence of Oregon football. He graduated in 1980 with a physical education and health degree from Pacific (Ore.), where he also played defensive back. Radcliffe became assistant strength coach at Oregon in 1985 and became head strength coach two years later.

Additional Oregon Ducks Staff

Jeff Hawkins	Director of Football Operations
Chris Brasfield	Graduate Assistant Coach
Alex Miller	Graduate Assistant Coach
Tim Bruegman	Academic Coordinator
Pat Conrad	Equipment Manager
Dr. Bob Crist	Team Physician
Eric Day	Video
Caillie Evans	Secretary
Kenny Farr	Equipment
Jim Fisher	Recruiting
Josh Gibson	FB Ops Admin.
Laura Jorgensen	Tickets
Mike Keldorf	Intern, Offense
Matthew Harper	Intern, Special Teams
Andy McNamara	Media Services
Stve Pohl	Video Coordinator
Dr. Ken Singer	Team Physician
Dr. Greg Skaggs	Director/Athletic Medicine
Kevin Steil	Associate Director/Athletic Medicine
Vicki Strand	Operations
Kim Terrell	Associate Director/Athletic Medicine
Kyle Wiest	Football Operations

OREGON

2010 OREGON DUCKS ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	CL	HT	WT	Hometown
49	Kiko Alonso	LB	6-4	222	So.	Los Gatos, CA
5	Remene Alston, Jr.	RB	5-8	200	Sr.	Greensboro, NC
85	Anthony Anderson	DE	6-5	233	Fr.	Spring Valley, CA
78	Karrington Armstrong	OL	6-2	283	Fr.	Reno, NV
79	Mark Asper	OL	6-7	322	Jr.	ID Falls, ID
51	Isaac Ava	LB	5-10	251	Fr.	Ewa Beach, HI
88	Brandon Bair	DT	6-7	272	Sr.	St. Anthony, ID
24	Kenjon Barner	RB	5-11	180	So.	Riverside, CA
31	Kenny Bassett	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	Beverly Hills, CA
93	Rob Beard	PK	6-0	218	So.	Fullerton, CA
3	Bryan Bennett	QB	6-2	183	Fr.	Encino, CA
71	Everett Benyard III	OL	6-7	315	Fr.	San Diego, CA
37	Anthony Blake	RB	5-10	190	So.	Portland
20	John Boyett	FS	5-10	198	So.	Napa, CA
96	Isiah Burks	WR	5-7	158	Jr.	Portland
75	Jamaal Burrell	OL	6-4	306	Fr.	Fontana, CA
92	Ben Butterfield	WR	6-0	180	Fr.	Sherwood
8	Brian Butterfield	ROV	6-0	183	Sr.	Sherwood
9	Blake Cantu	WR	6-0	193	Fr.	Southlake, TX
60	Ryan Clanton	OL	6-4	294	Jr.	Bakersfield, CA
99	Zac Clark	DT	6-2	270	Sr.	Wichita, KS
46	Michael Clay	LB	5-11	225	So.	San Jose, CA
61	Nick Cody	OL	6-5	296	So.	Brush Prairie, WA
30	Nick Cole	WR	6-3	195	Fr.	Concord, CA
7	Nate Costa	QB	6-1	210	Sr.	Hilmar, CA
4	Erick Dargan	DB	5-11	206	Fr.	Pittsburg, CA
10	D.J. Davis	WR	6-1	205	Sr.	Denver, CO
3	Marcus Davis	DB	5-11	187	So.	League City, TX
84	Chad Delaney	WR	6-0	179	Fr.	Elmira
38	Sam Doman	TE	6-4	234	Sr.	Canby
19	Eric Dungy	WR	6-1	177	Fr.	Tampa, FL
91	Dane Ebanez	WR	5-9	177	Fr.	North Pole, AK
33	Ayele Forde	RB	5-7	175	Fr.	Victorville, CA
64	Max Forer	OL	6-3	267	Sr.	Santa Monica, CA
57	Trevor Fox	OL	6-5	290	Fr.	Temecula, CA
38	Mike Garrity	LB	6-1	221	Fr.	San Carlos, CA
18	Anthony Gildon	CB	6-1	185	Jr.	Simi Valley, CA
70	Ramsen Golpashin	OL	6-4	275	Jr.	Saugus, CA
28	Scott Grady	DB	5-11	180	So.	Tigard
52	Hroniss Grasu	OL	6-3	274	Fr.	Encino, CA
63	Mana Greig	OL	5-11	291	Fr.	Kailua, HI
60	Ryan Hagen	DT	6-3	284	Fr.	Brea, CA
14	Dustin Haines	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Eugene
44	Brandon Hanna	DE	6-2	234	Jr.	Coeur d'Alene, ID
13	Cliff Harris	CB	5-11	180	So.	Fresno, CA
66	Taylor Hart	DT	6-6	262	Fr.	Tualatin
16	Daryle Hawkins	QB	6-4	192	Fr.	Omaha, NE
90	Ricky Heimuli	DT	6-4	318	Fr.	Glendale, Utah
2	Troy Hill	DB	5-11	165	Fr.	Ventura, CA
81	Justin Hoffman	WR	6-1	201	So.	Eugene
54	Jordan Holmes	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Yuba City, CA
50	Drew Howell	LS	6-2	217	Fr.	Tehachapi, CA
4	Josh Huff	WR	5-11	201	Fr.	Houston, TX
33	Tyrell Irvin	DE	6-2	231	Sr.	Denver, CO
12	Brian Jackson	DB	5-10	192	Fr.	Hoover, AL
37	Talmadge Jackson III	CB	5-10	188	Sr.	Murrieta, CA
21	LaMichael James	RB	5-9	185	So.	Texarkana, TX
1	Marvin Johnson	ROV	5-11	210	Sr.	Compton, CA

NO	NAME	POS	CL	HT	WT	Hometown
96	Dion Jordan	DE	6-7	230	So.	Chandler, AZ
56	Josh Kaddu	LB	6-3	235	Jr.	Vacaville, CA
68	C.E. Kaiser	OL	6-4	290	Sr.	Veradale, WA
57	Keloni Kamalani	LB	5-11	209	Fr.	Kihei, HI
92	Wade Keliikipi	DT	6-2	289	Fr.	Waianae, HI
14	Javes Lewis	DB	6-1	190	Jr.	Tustin, CA
26	Malachi Lewis	TE	6-4	216	Sr.	Oxnard, CA
43	Bryson Littlejohn	LB	6-1	225	Sr.	Elk Grove, CA
25	Boseko Lokombo	LB	6-3	223	Fr.	Abbotsford, B.C.
6	Keanon Lowe	WR	5-9	173	Fr.	Portland
23	Jeff Maehl	WR	6-1	184	Sr.	Paradise, CA
32	J.R. Maffie	DB	5-11	197	Fr.	Diamond Bar, CA
41	Alejandro Maldonado	PK	5-10	198	Fr.	Colton, CA
22	Derrick Malone, Jr.	DB	6-2	199	Fr.	Colton, CA
6	Dior Mathis	CB	5-9	180	Fr.	Detroit, MI
55	Casey Matthews	LB	6-2	235	Sr.	Agoura Hills, CA
94	Axel McQuaw	DT	6-6	275	So.	Yachats
27	Terrance Mitchell	DB	6-0	183	Fr.	Sacramento, CA
90	Will Murphy	WR	6-2	176	So.	Albany
62	Nick Musgrove	DE	6-1	228	Jr.	Eugene
59	Jeff Palmer	LS	5-10	199	So.	Dana Point, CA
31	Avery Patterson	CB	5-10	180	Fr.	Pittsburg, CA
42	David Paulson	TE	6-4	241	Jr.	Auburn, WA
35	Spencer Paysinger	LB	6-3	231	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
7	Chad Peppars	ROV	5-10	189	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
11	Eddie Pleasant	SS	5-11	213	Jr.	La Palma, CA
32	Andres Reed	RB	6-0	218	Sr.	Medford
65	Isaac Remington	DT	6-6	262	Jr.	Queen Creek, AZ
49	Jackson Rice	P	6-3	220	So.	Moraga, CA
58	Kenny Rowe	DE	6-3	232	Sr.	Long Beach, CA
72	Nick Rowland	OL	6-4	314	Fr.	Peoria, AZ
97	Clint Sager	TE	6-3	237	Fr.	Grants Pass
67	Josh Sanford	OL	6-2	276	Jr.	St. Helens
17	James Scales	DB	5-10	190	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
15	Lache Seastrunk	RB	5-9	188	Fr.	Temple, TX
48	Eric Solis	PK	5-10	182	Fr.	Sherman Oaks, CA
73	Brenton Spickerman	OL	6-6	266	Fr.	West Linn
41	Blake Stanton	WR	5-11	216	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
64	Jennings Stewart	LB	6-3	211	So.	Grants Pass
53	Dewitt Stuckey	LB	5-11	221	Jr.	Stockton, CA
89	Brandon Swepson	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	Potomac, MD
86	Brian Teague	TE	6-3	246	Fr.	Portland
95	Brandon Tett	DE	6-0	298	Sr.	Gresham
1	Darron Thomas	QB	6-3	212	So.	Houston, TX
40	Blake Thompson	LB	5-11	230	Jr.	Cottage Grove
59	Grant Thompson	LB	5-11	213	Fr.	Cottage Grove
69	Bo Thran	OL	6-5	281	Sr.	Gresham
94	Blake Tillis	WR	6-0	175	So.	La Verne, CA
80	Lavasier Tuinei	WR	6-5	206	Jr.	Arcadia, IN
45	Terrell Turner	DE	6-3	261	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
98	Dallen Voeller	WR	6-3	225	Fr.	West Linn
36	Will Wallace	CB	5-10	189	Jr.	West Covina
91	Tony Washington	DE	6-3	245	Fr.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
74	Darrion Weems	OL	6-5	292	Jr.	Winnetka, CA
83	Curtis White	TE	6-4	250	Fr.	Eugene
87	Brandon Williams	TE	6-4	237	Jr.	Merrionette Park, IL
2	Dontae Williams	RB	5-11	207	Fr.	Houston, TX
97	Jonathan Witz	DL	6-3	240	Fr.	Mercer Island, WA
77	Carson York	OL	6-5	286	So.	Coeur d'Alene, ID

Autzen Stadium

The Memorial Quad at the heart of the University of Oregon campus was designed to be the main university quadrangle. Walkways through the area designate it in memory of those from the university who served in the United States military.

But, that spot holds a lot of other memories for university alums and fans … early memories of Oregon football. Kincaid Field was located there on property acquired by the university around 1902. It hosted athletic events until 1922, including football until 1919.

Realizing that a football-only facility was needed, Hayward Field was built that year, and two years later a track was constructed around the field. It became one of the nation's premiere track and football facilities. But, by the late 1960s, Duck football had outgrown Hayward Field.

Athletic director Leo Harris spearheaded the drive to build Autzen Stadium, which was named after Thomas Autzen of Portland, a lumberman and sportsman – and an Oregon State graduate – whose son graduated from Oregon. The new facility was located north of the Williamette River, connected to the main campus by a scenic footbridge.

The first game in Autzen Stadium was played on September 23, 1967 before a regional television audience. The opening was not what the Oregon faithful wanted … a 17-13 loss to the Colorado Buffaloes. In fact, the only home win of the season was a 31-6 victory over Idaho in late October. But, the start of decades of success inside Autzen was underway.

The first field was natural grass, but in 1969 the first artificial turf was installed. Several times over the years the playing surface has been upgraded and changed, including in 2002 with the addition of FieldTurf, which is designed to withstand extreme temperature and weather conditions.

In 1981, the stadium had its first expansion with the construction of the Barker Stadium Club behind the east end zone. This added meeting space for pregame activities.

The next major improvement, which cost $2.3 million, happened in 1988. The press box, which had been located on the north side of the stadium, was moved to the south side. This allowed construction of a three-story complex, which included 11 individual skyboxes and a 460-seat master skysuite.

In 1995, the playing field was renamed Rich Brooks Field, honoring the Ducks head man from 1977-1994. The all-time winningest coach in Oregon history, he led the team to its first Pac-10 championship and its first Rose Bowl appearance in 37 years.

Three years later, a $4 million video display scoreboard was added. It was replaced in 2008 by "Duck Vision," a giant high-definition LED scoreboard and replay screen. Six years earlier, a $90 million improvement project added seating and luxury boxes to the south sideline.

Autzen Stadium officially seats 54,000 fans, but that number is routinely exceeded with over 59,000 people in attendance. And, for the first time in the school's history, those loyal season-ticket holders will get to watch their beloved Ducks play for the national championship.

OREGON REGULAR SEASON STATS

PASSING

	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Avg/G
Thomas, Darron	195-321-7	60.7	2518	28	209.8
Costa, Nate	25-33-0	75.8	286	1	31.8
Total	220-354-7	62.1	2804	29	233.7
Opponents	243-454-20	53.5	2568	13	214.0

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Avg/G
Maehl, Jeff	12	68	943	13.9	12	47	78.6
Davis, D.J.	12	36	410	11.4	3	38	34.2
Tuinei, Lavasier	10	33	321	9.7	2	33	32.1
Paulson, David	12	21	370	17.6	4	61	30.8
Huff, Josh	12	19	303	15.9	3	57	25.2
James, LaMichael	11	13	169	13.0	1	84	15.4
Barner, Kenjon	10	11	113	10.3	2	60	11.3
Hawkins, Daryle	4	4	26	6.5	1	12	6.5
Hoffman, Justin	11	3	15	5.0	0	9	1.4
Williams, Brandon	10	2	48	24.0	0	29	4.8
Murphy, Will	4	2	22	11.0	0	13	5.5
Lewis, Malachi	8	2	17	8.5	1	9	2.1
Alston, Remene	8	2	16	8.0	0	14	2.0
Haines, Dustin	4	1	18	18.0	0	18	4.5
Reed, Andres	2	1	15	15.0	0	15	7.5
Delaney, Chad	3	1	2	2.0	0	2	0.7
Thomas, Darron	12	1	-4	-4.0	0	0	-0.3
Total	12	220	2804	12.7	29	84	233.7
Opponents	12	243	2568	10.6	13	85	214.0

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Harris, Cliff	28	545	19.5	4	79
Barner, Kenjon	8	127	15.9	1	80
James, LaMichael	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Huff, Josh	0	2	0.0	0	2
Grady, Scott	0	1	0.0	0	1
Total	37	673	18.2	5	80
Opponents	12	110	9.2	0	55

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Harris, Cliff	5	70	14.0	1	76
Boyett, John	5	57	11.4	1	39
Matthews, Casey	3	15	5.0	0	7
Jackson, Talmadge	2	52	26.0	0	52
Patterson, Avery	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jackson, Brian	1	6	6.0	0	6
Clay, Michael	1	2	2.0	0	2
Lewis, Javes	1	7	7.0	0	7
Turner, Terrell	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	20	209	10.4	2	76
Opponents	7	72	10.3	0	28

KICK RETURNS

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Huff, Josh	21	532	25.3	0	80
Barner, Kenjon	11	206	18.7	0	39
Harris, Cliff	7	143	20.4	0	47
Clay, Michael	1	0	0.0	0	0
Matthews, Casey	1	15	15.0	0	15
Grady, Scott	1	23	23.0	0	23
Total	42	919	21.9	0	80
Opponents	90	1740	19.3	0	39

FUMBLE RETURNS

	No.	Yds	Avg	Td	Lg
Pleasant, Eddie	1	51	51.0	0	51
Lokombo, Boseko	1	32	32.0	1	32
Johnson, Marvin	1	4	4.0	0	4
Total	3	87	29.0	1	51
Opponents	3	24	8.0	1	14

Overall Team Statistics

	ORE	OPP
SCORING	592	221
Points Per Game	49.3	18.4
FIRST DOWNS	322	227
Rushing	181	73
Passing	119	127
Penalty	22	27
RUSHING YARDAGE	3646	1411
Yds gained rushing	3933	1801
Yds lost rushing	287	390
Rushing Attempts	597	424
Average Per Rush	6.1	3.3
Average Per Game	303.8	117.6
TDs Rushing	42	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2804	2568
Comp-Att-Int	220-354-7	243-454-20
Average Per Pass	7.9	5.7
Average Per Catch	12.7	10.6
Average Per Game	233.7	214.0
TDs Passing	29	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	6450	3979
Total Plays	951	878
Average Per Play	6.8	4.5
Average Per Game	537.5	331.6
KICK RETURNS: #-Yds	42-919	90-1740
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yds	37-673	12-110
INT RETURNS: #-Yds	20-209	7-72

	ORE	OPP
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.9	19.3
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	18.2	9.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.4	10.3
FUMBLES-LOST	25-15	24-15
PENALTIES-Yds	87-761	78-628
Average Per Game	63.4	52.3
PUNTS-Yds	38-1615	75-3222
Average Per Punt	42.5	43.0
Net punt average	38.6	33.2
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	27:58	32:01
3RD-DOWN Conversions	78/170	65/194
3rd-Down Pct	46%	34%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	20/31	5/21
4th-Down Pct	65%	24%
SACKS BY-Yds	31-185	7-44
MISC Yds	0	13
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	79	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-16	15-19
ON-SIDE KICKS	1-1	0-1
RED-ZONE SCORES	(53-63) 84%	(25-37) 68%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(42-63) 67%	(17-37) 46%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(72-73) 99%	(22-22) 100%
ATTENDANCE	356,387	388,287
Games/Avg Per Game	6/59,398	6/64,714
Neutral Site Games		0/0

FIELD GOALS

	Made-Att	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	Lg	Blkd
Solis, Eric	3-4	75.0	0-0	2-3	1-1	0-0	0-0	30	1
Beard, Rob	9-12	75.0	0-0	4-5	3-4	2-3	0-0	42	0

FG SEQUENCE	Oregon	Opponents
New Mexico	(24),(29),(30),26	-
Tennessee	(37),(42)	(48),(35)
Portland State	(27),(41)	52
Arizona State	-	47,(34)
Stanford	(22)	(46)
Washington State	-	(50)
UCLA	(29)	(25),(48)
USC	(34)	(32)
Washington	(29)	52,(52),(27),(47)
California	37,48	29
Arizona	-	(29),(41)
Oregon State	(36),25	(26),(22)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

SCORING

	TD	FGs	PAT Kick	PAT Rush	Rcv	Pass	DXP	Saf	Pts
James, LaMichael	22	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	132
Beard, Rob	0	9-12	63-64	1-1	0	0-0	0	0	92
Maehl, Jeff	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	72
Barner, Kenjon	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	54
Harris, Cliff	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
Alston, Remene	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
Huff, Josh	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
Thomas, Darron	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-1	0	0	30
Paulson, David	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	24
Davis, D.J.	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
Solis, Eric	0	3-4	9-9	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	18
Costa, Nate	2	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	1-1	0	0	14
Hawkins, Daryle	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Tuinei, Lavasier	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Boyett, John	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Lokombo, Boseko	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Lewis, Malachi	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Jordan, Dion	0	0-0	0-0	2-2	0	0-0	0	0	4
Bair, Brandon	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0	2
Total	79	12-16	72-73	4-4	1	1-2	0	0	592
Opponents	25	15-19	22-22	0-1	1	1-2	0	1	221

KICKOFFS

	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Beard, Rob	90	5816	64.6	11	1
Solis, Eric	13	819	63.0	1	0
Total	103	6635	64.4	12	1
Opponents	50	3200	64.0	7	1

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TB	FC	I20	Blkd
Rice, Jackson	35	1507	43.1	56	2	6	17	0
Maldonado, Alejandro	3	108	36.0	40	0	2	1	0
Total	38	1615	42.5	56	2	8	18	0
Opponents	75	3222	43.0	63	3	12	20	0

OREGON REGULAR SEASON STATS

TOTAL OFFENSE

	GP	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Thomas, Darron	12	406	492	2518	3010	250.8
James, LaMichael	11	281	1682	0	1682	152.9
Barner, Kenjon	10	80	519	0	519	51.9
Costa, Nate	9	53	138	286	424	47.1
Alston, Remene	8	63	356	0	356	44.5
Huff, Josh	12	12	214	0	214	17.8
Reed, Andres	2	18	125	0	125	62.5
Hawkins, Daryle	4	18	93	0	93	23.2
Clay, Michael	12	1	64	0	64	5.3
Haines, Dustin	4	2	1	0	1	0.2
Maehl, Jeff	12	1	-1	0	-1	-0.1
TEAM	10	16	-37	0	-37	-3.7
Total	12	951	3646	2804	6450	537.5
Opponents	12	878	1411	2568	3979	331.6

ALL PURPOSE

	GP	Rush	Rcv	PR	KR	IR	Total	Avg/G
James, LaMichael	11	1682	169	-2	0	0	1849	168.1
Huff, Josh	12	214	303	2	532	0	1051	87.6
Barner, Kenjon	10	519	113	127	206	0	965	96.5
Maehl, Jeff	12	-1	943	0	0	0	942	78.5
Harris, Cliff	12	0	0	545	143	70	758	63.2
Thomas, Darron	12	492	-4	0	0	0	488	40.7
Davis, D.J.	12	0	410	0	0	0	410	34.2
Alston, Remene	8	356	16	0	0	0	372	46.5
Paulson, David	12	0	370	0	0	0	370	30.8
Tuinei, Lavasier	10	0	321	0	0	0	321	32.1
Reed, Andres	2	125	15	0	0	0	140	70.0
Costa, Nate	9	138	0	0	0	0	138	15.3
Hawkins, Daryle	4	93	26	0	0	0	119	29.8
Clay, Michael	12	64	0	0	0	2	66	5.5
Boyett, John	12	0	0	0	0	57	57	4.8
Jackson, Talmadge	12	0	0	0	0	52	52	4.3
Williams, Brandon	10	0	48	0	0	0	48	4.8
Matthews, Casey	12	0	0	0	15	15	30	2.5
Grady, Scott	11	0	0	1	23	0	24	2.2
Murphy, Will	4	0	22	0	0	0	22	5.5
Haines, Dustin	4	1	18	0	0	0	19	4.8
Lewis, Malachi	8	0	17	0	0	0	17	2.1
Hoffman, Justin	11	0	15	0	0	0	15	1.4
Lewis, Javes	11	0	0	0	0	7	7	0.6
Jackson, Brian	12	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.5
Delaney, Chad	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.7
TEAM	10	-37	0	0	0	0	-37	-3.7
Total	12	3646	2804	673	919	209	8251	687.6
Opponents	12	1411	2568	110	1740	72	5901	491.8

2010 RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Result	Score
Sept. 4	New Mexico	W	72-0
Sept. 11	at Tennessee	W	48-13
Sept. 18	Portland State	W	69-0
Sept. 25	at Arizona State	W	42-31
Oct. 2	Stanford	W	52-31
Oct. 9	at Washington State	W	43-23
Oct. 21	UCLA	W	60-13
Oct. 30	at USC	W	53-32
Nov. 6	Washington	W	53-16
Nov. 13	at California	W	15-13
Nov. 26	Arizona	W	48-29
Dec. 4	at Oregon State	W	37-20

Defensive Leaders

			Tackles			Sacks	Pass Defense			Fumbles		Blkd	
		GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL-Yds	No-Yds	Int-Yds	BU	Qbh	Rcv-Yds	FF	Kick	Saf
55	Matthews, Casey	12	33	40	73	8.5-34	3.0 -20	3 - 15	2	3	3-0	.	.	.
35	Paysinger, Spencer	12	42	26	68	6.5-30	3.0 -17	.	6	.	1-0	1	.	.
37	Jackson, Talmadge	12	43	24	67	1.5-2	.	2 - 52	6	.	.	1	.	.
20	Boyett, John	12	42	25	67	1.5-3	.	5 - 57	9	.	.	.	.	.
11	Pleasant, Eddie	12	36	27	63	5.0-26	2.0 -13	.	2	.	2-51	.	.	.
88	Bair, Brandon	12	25	20	45	15.5-54	3.0 -17	.	8	2	.	.	.	.
46	Clay, Michael	12	18	20	38	0.5-1	.	1 - 2	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
58	Rowe, Kenny	12	20	18	38	12.5-34	6.0 -25	.	3	3	1-0	4	.	.
99	Clark, Zac	12	18	19	37	8.5-37	3.0 -22	.	1	2	.	2	.	.
25	Lokombo, Boseko	12	19	16	35	2.0-4	.	.	3	.	3-32	.	.	.
56	Kaddu, Josh	12	19	12	31	6.5-28	2.5 -20	.	2	1	.	.	.	.
13	Harris, Cliff	12	21	9	30	1.0-3	.	5 - 70	15	.	.	.	.	.
43	Littlejohn, Bryson	12	14	16	30	2.0-2	.	.	.	1	2-0	1	.	.
96	Jordan, Dion	12	17	12	29	4.5-25	2.0 -16	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
45	Turner, Terrell	12	12	15	27	5.5-23	2.5 -14	1 - 0	2	1	.	.	.	.
0A	Johnson, Marvin	12	10	14	24	0.5-2	.	.	3	.	1-4	1	.	.
14	Lewis, Javes	11	14	8	22	1.0-6	.	1 - 7	1	.	.	1	.	.
44	Hanna, Brandon	12	9	9	18	2.5-14	2.0 -12	.	2	1	.	2	.	.
31	Patterson, Avery	12	11	7	18	.	.	1 - 0	.	1	.	.	.	.
18	Gildon, Anthony	11	12	6	18	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
66	Hart, Taylor	12	10	8	18	2.0-9	2.0 -9	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
92	Keliikipi, Wade	12	9	8	17	0.5-2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
12	Jackson, Brian	12	8	8	16	.	.	1 - 6	1	.	.	2	.	.
28	Grady, Scott	11	11	2	13	.	.	.	1	.	1-0	.	.	.
0G	Peppars, Chad	12	4	7	11	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
8	Butterfield, Brian	11	8	2	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Heimuli, Ricky	12	4	5	9	1.0-5	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
57	Kamalani, Keloni	4	.	5	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
53	Stuckey, Dewitt	6	1	4	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	Maehl, Jeff	12	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
62	Musgrove, Nick	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40	Thompson, Blake	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
93	Beard, Rob	11	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
75	Burrell, Jamaal	4	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
24	Barner, Kenjon	10	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
54	Holmes, Jordan	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
85	Anderson, Anthony	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
77	York, Carson	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95	Tett, Brandon	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Wallace, Will	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
81	Hoffman, Justin	11	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
50	Howell, Drew	11	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6D	Stewart, Jennings	5	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	Thomas, Darron	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Huff, Josh	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	10	1	.	1	1.0-11	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
	Total.....	12	508	398	906	90-355	31 -185	20 - 209	78	20	15-87	16	.	.
	Opponents.....	12	551	430	981	68-228	7 -44	7 - 72	37	12	15-24	16	2	1

Rushing

	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
James, LaMichael	11	281	1786	104	1682	6.0	21	76	152.9
Barner, Kenjon	10	80	537	18	519	6.5	6	41	51.9
Thomas, Darron	12	85	563	71	492	5.8	5	35	41.0
Alston, Remene	8	63	378	22	356	5.7	5	42	44.5
Huff, Josh	12	12	214	0	214	17.8	2	85	17.8
Costa, Nate	9	20	155	17	138	6.9	2	43	15.3
Reed, Andres	2	18	137	12	125	6.9	0	36	62.5
Hawkins, Daryle	4	18	96	3	93	5.2	1	18	23.2
Clay, Michael	12	1	64	0	64	64.0	0	64	5.3
Haines, Dustin	4	2	3	2	1	0.5	0	3	0.2
Maehl, Jeff	12	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-0.1
TEAM	10	16	0	37	-37	-2.3	0	0	-3.7
Total	12	597	3933	287	3646	6.1	42	85	303.8
Opponents	12	424	1801	390	1411	3.3	11	53	117.6

PAC-10 Champs 1994

Things were glorious in Eugene during the fall of 1957.

Picked near the bottom of the old Pacific Coast Conference, Oregon football had surprisingly become significant again.

Sure, there had been disappointments. A three-point loss to national power Pittsburgh. A one-touchdown defeat to Washington and the loss by a field goal to Oregon State in the Civil War. But, that couldn't diminish the fact that the Ducks had tied for the conference championship, earning the right to play in the Rose Bowl, their first appearance in Pasadena in 38 years.

Unfortunately, 37 years later, Oregon had never returned to the Rose Bowl for a New Year's Day game.

Rich Brooks was head coach in 1994, having come to Oregon in 1977 to resurrect a Ducks program that had not played in the postseason since the 1963 Sun Bowl. It took three seasons to have a winning record, but seven more of his Duck teams did that before 1994, including three postseason bowl games. But, none had been played in Pasadena, none following a league title.

The season started poorly. After demolishing Portland State, the Ducks had double-digit losses to non-conference upstarts, Hawaii and Utah. But, a 40-18 massacre of the Iowa Hawkeyes the following week set the stage for one of the most significant five-weeks in Oregon football history.

First was Southern California, ranked No. 19, playing in the Los Angeles Coliseum in a prime time television game. Oregon dominated the game, winning by a comfortable 22-7 margin. The Ducks suffered their only conference loss the next week, falling 21-7 against No. 17 Washington State in Pullman. That was followed by a 23-7 win over California.

Then, Washington's ninth-ranked Huskies came to Eugene for perhaps the season's defining game. The visitors had already beaten the Miami Hurricanes, snapping their all-time national record 58-game home winning streak. Oregon had a narrow 24-20 lead in the fourth quarter with Washington at the Ducks 9-yard line. Freshman cornerback Kenny Wheaton intercepted a Damon Huard pass and returned it for the winning touchdown. The play, called "The Pick," is still celebrated by Oregon fans 16 years later.

Oregon survived a close call the next week, a 10-9 victory over No. 11 Arizona, then followed with wins over Arizona State and Stanford. The conference championship was clinched in the Civil War win over Oregon State.

The Ducks finished the regular season with a 7-1 Pac-10 record, winning the league title outright, one game ahead of Southern California and Arizona.

Undefeated Penn State was the Rose Bowl opponent, entering the game as a comfortable favorite. But, Oregon made it tough, despite the final 38-20 margin. Late in the third quarter, the Ducks had a chance to tie the game, but muffed a punt which Penn State recovered, leading to a cushion-padding touchdown. Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil threw for a Rose Bowl record 456 yards, also setting the bowl record for most completions (41).

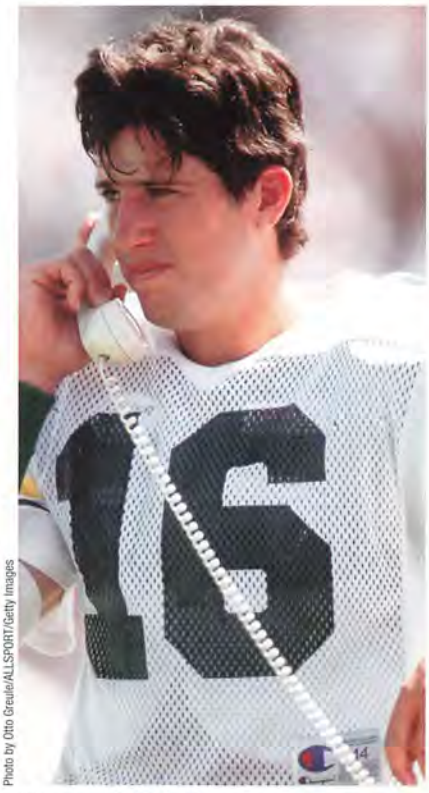


Photo by Otto Greule/ALLSPORT/Getty Images

Danny O'Neil

Individual honors for the Ducks included Pac-10 Coach of the Year for Brooks and first-team All-American for two defensive backs, Chad Cota and Herman O'Berry.

In an unusual tribute to the 1994 team, they were inducted … as a team … into the University of Oregon Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

PAC-10 Champs 2000

The 2000 football season for the Oregon Ducks was one of superlatives.

One of the nation's top quarterbacks — Joey Harrington — led the fast-paced offense, one of the best in Oregon history.

Maurice Morris established himself as one of the best runners in the nation.

The Ducks defeated four teams ranked in the Top 25 and its only two losses in the 10-2 season were to Top 5-ranked teams.

And, Oregon tied for its second Pac-10 championship — the first since the 1994 Rose Bowl team.

The challenges started early for head coach Mike Bellotti's team. After a 36-7 opening win over Nevada, the Ducks traveled to Camp Randall Stadium to play No. 5 Wisconsin. Oregon lost to the Badgers, 27-23, but the narrow defeat on national television sent a clear message — this Oregon team could compete with anyone.

The Ducks returned to Autzen Stadium the following week for a 42-13 win over Idaho. The next four weeks proved that Oregon was no fluke.

No. 6 UCLA was the next victim, losing decisively, 29-10. The following week, the opponent was Washington, which had moved to No. 6 in the polls after the Bruins' loss the previous week. The outcome was the same … an Oregon victory, 23-16. The Ducks played the next week in the Los Angeles Coliseum on national television against Southern California. Oregon prevailed, 28-17. Against the fourth consecutive national power, the 21st-ranked Arizona Wildcats, the home team won in Autzen Stadium, 14-10.

Oregon was now 7-1, ranked No. 9 and headed for an emotional letdown on the road against unranked Arizona State. The Ducks trailed, 49-35, with four minutes remaining. They put up one touchdown, then recovered a fumble to set up the tying score … a Harrington pass to Justin Peelle … with just 27 seconds remaining. Oregon won the game in double overtime, 56-55.

After wins over Washington State and California, the Ducks could win the league title outright in the Civil War. But, Oregon State won, 23-13, causing a three-way tie at the top. Washington won the tiebreaker to represent the Pac-10 in the Rose Bowl and Oregon headed to the Holiday Bowl to face traditional power Texas.

Played in San Diego in late December, the Holiday Bowl provided one of the Ducks greatest postseason wins. Oregon started strong, building a 14-0 first quarter lead. But, by halftime, the Longhorns led, 21-14.

In the third quarter, Morris tied the game on a 55-yard touchdown reception. Harrington's 9-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter put Oregon back on top. The lead lasted just a few seconds as Victor Ike of Texas returned the ensuing kickoff for a score. The Ducks took the lead for good after an eight-play drive ended with Jason Willis' 4-yard touchdown run.

For the season, Harrington passed for

Photo by Getty Images

Maurice Morris

2,967 yards and 22 touchdowns to go along with seven rushing scores. Morris ran for 1,188 yards with eight touchdowns. Oregon finished eighth in the final college football polls.

The season heralded the start of an outstanding decade of Oregon football. For the seasons 2000-2009, the Ducks would be the 13th best team in the country in terms of winning percentage, trailing only Southern California among Pac-10 teams.

PAC-10 Champs 2001

After finishing in a three-way tie for first place in the Pac-10 a year earlier, Oregon was on a mission to win the conference in 2001.

Heisman finalist Joey Harrington, who passed for 2,764 yards and 27 touchdowns, was the team's star, but offensive playmakers Onterrio Smith, Maurice Morris, Samie Parker, Justin Peelle and Keenan Howry were a big reason why Oregon averaged 34.3 points per game, which ranked 16th nationally, and 436 yards of total offense.

Defensively, the Ducks were a veteran unit led by defensive linemen Seth McEwen and Igor Olshanshky, linebackers Kevin Mitchell, Wesly Mallard and David Moretti and defensive backs Rasuli Webster, Steve Smith and Keith Lewis. Although the Ducks didn't dominate statistically, they were solid against the run and made a lot of big plays.

Oregon's only loss on the season was a 49-42 heartbreaker to Stanford on Oct. 20 in which the Ducks allowed two blocked punts and watched a two-touchdown fourth quarter lead evaporate. Other than that, the slate was clean for Mike Bellotti's club.

The Ducks entered their Fiesta Bowl matchup against Colorado with a 10-1 record and ranked No. 2 in two major polls. Meanwhile, Colorado, who was 10-2, checked in at No. 3 in the nation after winning the Big 12 championship.

Angry about being shunned from the BCS national title game, Oregon took out its frustrations on the Buffaloes.

Photo by Jeff Gross/ALLSPORT/Getty Images

Joey Harrington

Harrington was nearly unstoppable as he completed 28 of 43 passes for 350 yards and a bowl-record four touchdowns. Colorado seemed to have no answer for Oregon's "West Coast" passing game. The Buffaloes' pass rush was virtually non-existent, which allowed Harrington time to pick apart the Colorado defense.

In its previous two games, Colorado had rushed for a whopping 601 yards against Nebraska and Texas, two of the nation's top defensive units, but Gary Barnett's team couldn't get anything going on the ground against Oregon's front seven. The Ducks held Colorado to just 49 yards rushing on 31 carries, which forced quarterback Bobby Pesavento to make plays in the passing game.

Pesavento wasn't up to the task, as he completed just 11 of 27 passes for 139 yards. He also threw two interceptions before being relieved by Craig Ochs in the fourth quarter. Smith was the defensive star of the game. He set a Fiesta Bowl record with three interceptions.

After the game, Harrington made a case that his Oregon team should be considered for the national championship.

"Not only was it the biggest win, but it was on the biggest stage and we did it in one of the most emphatic manners that a Duck team has ever played," Harrington said. "We made a statement today, 38 unanswered points, and shut down the hottest team in the country. We showed that we deserved to be playing for a share of the national championship."

Although the Ducks finished 11-1 and No. 2 in the polls behind eventual champion Miami, their defeat of Colorado proved one thing: Oregon football had arrived.

PAC-10 Champs 2009

The 2009 season saw major changes at Oregon. Gone was 14-year coach Mike Bellotti, who won a career best 116 games at the school and took the Ducks to bowl games in 12 of his 14 seasons. Bellotti had moved upstairs to become the school's athletic director and turned the coaching duties over to Chip Kelly, who had never been a head coach on the FBS level.

Kelly had been Oregon's offensive coordinator for two seasons during which the Ducks' fast-paced spread offense had been the talk of the Pac-10. They led the league in scoring and in total offense in 2007 and 2008 and when Kelly was named head coach, he tapped Mark Helfrich to run the offense, which would continue to be based on running as many plays as possible.

Oregon's attack would feature senior running back LeGarrette Blount and junior quarterback Jeremiah Masoli, at least that was the plan. That plan was shot down when Oregon went to Boise State to open the season. The Broncos handed the ineffective Oregon offense a crushing 19-8 defeat. After the game, Blount lost his temper and slugged a Boise State player coming off the field.

Kelly wasted no time suspending his star running back for the rest of the season, a move that gave Kelly instant recognition around the country as a disciplinarian. He would later relent and allow Blount to return for the final game of the regular season. In his absence, however, a new star arrived on the scene.

Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

LaMichael James, a 5-9, 185-pound freshman from Texarkana, Tex., stepped in and the Ducks' offense did not miss a beat.

Behind James and Masoli and a rugged defense led by freshman safety John Boyett and junior linebackers Casey Matthews and Spencer Paysinger, the Ducks ripped off seven consecutive wins after the opening loss. With wins over Cal, Washington State, UCLA, Washington and USC, the Ducks were in first place in the Pac-10 and ranked No. 7 in the nation when they went to Stanford and were upset 51-42 by the Cardinal.

But, the Ducks bounced back and edged Arizona, 44-41, in two overtimes and clipped Oregon State, 37-33, rallying from a 30-21 second half deficit in the season finale. The win left Oregon at 10-2 on the season and 8-1 in the Pac-10 and secured the championship and a trip to the Rose Bowl. It would be the fifth time Oregon played in the "Granddaddy of Them All" in Pasadena.

The Ducks met the No. 8-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes in the Rose Bowl and held a 17-6 lead in the third quarter, but couldn't hold on and came up short, 26-17.

The 2009 season was a huge success for Kelly and the Ducks. James set a freshman rushing record with 1,546 yards and 14 touchdowns. Masoli finished second in rushing with 668 yards and 13 touchdowns and he threw for 2,147 yards and 15 more scores. Jeff Maehl caught 53 passes for 696 yards and Ed Dickson caught 42 for 551 yards. Each had six touchdown catches. Boyett led the team in tackles with 90, while Paysinger and Matthews each had 81.

OREGON ALL-TIME TEAM

COACH – Rich Brooks (1977-1994)

OFFENSE

QB – Norm Van Brocklin (1947-1948)

RB – LaMichael James (2009-Present)

RB – Mel Renfro (1961-1963)

WR – Samie Parker (2000-2003)

WR – Keenan Howry (1999-2002)

TE – Ed Dickson (2006-2009)

OL – Tom Drougas (1969-1971)

OL – Gary Zimmerman (1980-1983)

OL – Steve Barnett (1960-1962)

OL – Max Unger (2005-2008)

OL – George Christensen (1928-1930)

ATH – Bobby Moore (1969-1971)

PK – Jared Siegel (2001-2004)

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

Cliff Harris

Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

Ed Dickson

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

LaMichael James

DEFENSE

DL – Haloti Ngata (2002-2005)

DL – Nick Reed (2005-2008)

DL – Ernest Jones (1990-1993)

DL – Dave Wilcox (1962-1963)

LB – Tom Graham (1969-1971)

LB – Peter Sirmon (1996-1999)

LB – Kevin Mitchell (2000-2003)

DB – Patrick Chung (2005-2008)

DB – George Shaw (1951-1954)

DB – Alex Molden (1993-1995)

DB – Rashad Bauman (1998-2001)

P – Josh Bidwell (1995-1998)

KR – Cliff Harris (2009-Present)

TITLE GAME PREVIEW

By Dennis Dodd

Photo by Steve Dykes/Getty Images

No Lead is Safe

This could be the highest-scoring championship game yet

If there is one rock-solid prediction for the BCS Championship Game, it's that no lead will be safe.

That's another way of saying comebacks were all the rage in 2010, and the Auburn Tigers and Oregon Ducks were every bit of all the rage. Throughout college football, even outside of Auburn and Eugene, teams clawed their way back from the brink like cartoon characters.

But everybody else wound up, at one point or another, playing the role of Wile E. Coyote. Well, other than TCU, but that's another story.

These teams are in the BCS title game *because* of comebacks, at times huge ones.

They take a combined 25-0 record into University of Phoenix Stadium. Their quick-strike offenses and Heisman Trophy performances made these teams memorable ... but their refusal to stay down when they got down made the season unforgettable.

These guys are a combined 16-0 when trailing.

Gene Chizik's Auburn team had to come from behind in eight of its 13 victories. Four times, the Tigers were down by double digits, and four times they rallied to win.

Chip Kelly's Oregon team has eight comeback triumphs. The Ducks trailed in two-thirds of their games — including a nothing-to-it resurrection from 18 down against a Stanford team that beat everyone else on its schedule.

These were not just little, early deficits. These teams trailed by a cumulative 157 points in those 16 games ... an *average* of 10 points a game.

Coaches have forever preached about responding to setbacks and bouncing back, and when times are tough, the tough get going ... yada yada yada.

But on The Plains and in Eugene, it's the truth. It's the real reason one of them will become the national champion for 2010.

So, no, these guys will not be sitting on a lead.

Offensively, this championship game matchup is a bit similar to 2005, when Texas and Southern California entered the BCS championship game undefeated as the top scoring teams in the country. That showdown in the Rose Bowl was one of the most memorable high-stakes shootouts ever — the Longhorns' classic 41-38 victory.

That's the highest-scoring championship game, and look at these similarities:

— Texas quarterback Vince Young accounted for 3,619 yards and 35 touchdowns heading into that game; compare that to Auburn star Cam Newton's 3,998 total yards and remarkable 49 TDs (including one receiving).

Photo by Louis Lopez/Cal Sport Media

— USC running back Reggie Bush had amassed 1,658 yards and 15 touchdowns; compare that to Oregon star LaMichael James and his 1,682 yards and 21 TDs.

Texas and USC were averaging a combined 101 points a game, believe it or not, compared to the combined 92 points of Auburn and Oregon. But the Longhorns and Trojans had statistically stronger defenses than these two — allowing a combined average of 35 points a game, compared to the 43 of the Ducks and Tigers. That should be good for a few more points for both sides.

Those Longhorns and Trojans were juggernauts, spending the entire 2005 season laying waste to their competition, just biding their time for the big game.

The Ducks and Tigers are more real. They embodied college football in 2010, showing frailties, getting smacked in the mouth a time or two, and then getting up and showing that they were the most mentally tough, exciting teams imaginable.

Part of their success might stem from the fact that in their short time on their job, Chizik and Kelly have had room to fail. Spectacularly.

Heck, Chizik hadn't been hired yet before he was labeled a "loser" at Auburn for bringing a 5-19 record from Iowa State. Then came the Cam Newton "scandal," through which Chizik somehow kept his players focused on the tasks in front of them, framing the adversity as an opportunity for growth.

And boy, did they grow, right through Dec. 1, when the NCAA cleared Newton of wrongdoing.

Call it Liberation Day for Cam and the Tigers. Unburdened by those off-field issues, Newton played the best game of his life in the SEC title game, accounting for six touchdowns (four passing, two rushing) against South Carolina.

That led a lot of us to believe we had just seen the best player of our lives.

"He's probably the best player I've ever seen," said Chizik, whose opinion counts more than anything. The man won a national championship as an assistant head coach at Texas, scheming in practice against Vince Young.

Kelly's hiring was not as controversial as Chizik's, but it was at least a curious move. Kelly, after all, had never been a head coach. And before Mike Bellotti hired him away from New Hampshire in 2007 to run the Oregon offense, Kelly had never even coached in major college football.

Rich Brooks had built Oregon to a competitive level, and then hand-picked Bellotti to take the Ducks to the next level ... and Bellotti hired this inexperienced fellow named Chip to take the Ducks to the next, next level?

And his very first game as coach was the night LeGarrette Blount decided to throw a punch rather than offer a Boise State player a congratulatory handshake — talk about a rude awakening for Kelly. But much like Chizik dealing with the Newton situation, Kelly managed the affairs at Autzen Stadium, and kept the Ducks headed in the right direction.

The coaches persevered. And their teams have taken perseverance to the next level, reflecting the personalities of their coaches. And two years later, here they are.

One has undying fan support that makes it possible for two tourists walking along the Great Wall of China to spot their school colors and shout to each other, "War Eagle!" The other is "all about the O," selling out Autzen Stadium for 10 consecutive years and counting.

Neither defense is world-beaters, although Oregon takes the ball away like few others (35 takeaways, second best in the country) and Auburn seems to find a way to get the defensive stop when it needs it most.

The Auburn offense has been Gus Malzahn's dream. Six years ago, Auburn's offensive coordinator was a noted

Tentative Starting Lineups

Auburn Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Cam Newton	6-6	250	Jr.
RB	Michael Dyer	5-9	215	Fr.
WR	Darvin Adams	6-3	185	Jr.
WR	Terrell Zachery	6-1	210	Sr.
HB	Eric Smith	5-10	240	Jr.
TE	Philip Lutzenkirchen	6-4	258	So.
LT	Lee Ziemba	6-8	319	Sr.
LG	Mike Berry	6-3	316	Sr.
C	Ryan Pugh	6-4	297	Sr.
RG	Byron Isom	6-3	302	Sr.
RT	Brandon Mosley	6-6	299	Jr.
PK	Wes Byrum	6-2	216	Sr.

Oregon Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
QB	Darron Thomas	6-3	212	So.
RB	LaMichael James	5-9	185	So.
WR	Jeff Maehl	6-1	184	Sr.
WR	Josh Huff	5-11	201	Fr.
WR	D.J. Davis	6-1	205	Sr.
TE	David Paulson	6-4	241	Jr.
LT	Bo Thran	6-5	289	Sr.
LG	Carson York	6-5	286	So.
C	Jordan Holmes	6-5	300	Sr.
RG	C.E. Kaiser	6-4	290	Sr.
RT	Mark Asper	6-7	322	Jr.
PK	Rob Beard	6-0	219	So.

Auburn Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DE	Nosa Eguae	6-2	258	Fr.
DT	Nick Fairley	6-5	298	Jr.
DT	Zach Clayton	6-3	296	Sr.
DE	Antoine Carter	6-4	256	Sr.
OLB	Craig Stevens	6-3	229	Sr.
MLB	Josh Bynes	6-2	235	Sr.
OLB	Eltoro Freeman	5-11	225	Jr.
CB	Demond Washington	5-9	182	Sr.
S	Zac Etheridge	6-0	213	Sr.
S	Mike McNeil	6-2	208	Jr.
CB	Neiko Thorpe	6-2	186	Jr.
P	Ryan Shoemaker	6-0	177	Sr.

Oregon Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
DE	Terrell Turner	6-3	261	Jr.
DT	Zac Clark	6-2	270	Sr.
DT	Brandon Bair	6-7	272	Sr.
DE	Kenny Rowe	6-3	232	Sr.
WLB	Spencer Paysinger	6-3	231	Sr.
MLB	Casey Matthews	6-2	235	Sr.
SLB	Josh Kaddua	6-3	235	Jr.
CB	Cliff Harris	5-11	180	So.
FS	John Boyett	5-10	198	So.
S	Eddie Pleasant	5-11	213	Jr.
CB	Talmadge Jackson III	5-10	188	Sr.
P	Jackson Rice	6-3	222	So.

high school coach in Arkansas. After stops at Arkansas and Tulsa, he found the perfect match in Auburn. His offense needs a triggerman. Newton is the weapon.

With his talent and his ebullience, Newton lifted Auburn to the next level. You saw it in that near-disastrous first half at Alabama. With Auburn trailing 24-0, Newton never wavered.

Comeback? Auburn made the biggest jump ever for a team playing for it all in the BCS era — from No. 23 in the preseason coaches' poll.

Oregon's comeback might have started in the spring, when the Ducks went from being picked as a national championship contender to hoping to compete for the Pac-10 title, because star quarterback Jeremiah Masoli was booted from the program. But never has a team understood more clearly that it's about the team and not the individuals ... that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Sophomore Darron Thomas won the starting quarterback job in the week before the opener, and he was the perfect fit for Kelly's perfect offense. This was the season when it all took off. The Ducks lead the country in scoring and total offense. James leads the country in rushing. Thomas made us forget all about Masoli, throwing 28 touchdown passes.

A legion of coaches already have made their way to Eugene to study Kelly's zone-read spread. They will be back.

Oregon's attack is a power running offense, out of a spread look. Kelly's heroes snap the ball, on average, every 21 seconds, scoring almost two points per minute of possession.

About the same time Kelly was choosing Thomas as his starter, Auburn's coaches were trying to decide what to do with Newton. Officially, the 6-6, 250-pound Newton looked like a defensive end, until he lined up at quarterback. It didn't take him long to win the job.

There is precious little patience these days. Everybody wants an Urban Meyer, who takes a program to the promised land within a couple years of taking over. It's all the rage.

Think about that: In 2000, Bob Stoops was in his second year at Oklahoma. National championship. Instant legendary status.

Jim Tressel. Urban Meyer. Nick Saban took three years. Pete Carroll took three. These are not "one-hit wonder" programs or coaches. They won big. They won quickly.

Soon, people will be pointing at Chizik or Kelly the same way.

It would be fair to say that Chizik and Kelly are in step with the times, but the fact is they are one step ahead. One of them won't be able to keep up with the other on Jan. 10, but it's anybody's guess who that will be.

Because you can never count out the other guy.

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSSports.com

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn /Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

AUBURN OVERVIEW

By Ben Cook

From the opening game straight through to the SEC Championship Game victory, Auburn's season was pure magic.

That doesn't mean it all went smoothly. But it was all magical because Gene Chizik's team just continued to amaze amid adversity, whether that had something to do with the numbers on the scoreboard or whether it had to do with distractions about unproven allegations regarding the recruitment of star quarterback Cam Newton.

About the only thing you could really count on about these Tigers was that they would win. Sometimes they would win big, sometimes they would just barely win, but they always won.

It was almost as if the Tigers enjoyed falling behind early because they knew they could come back at the end. They knew it because they never faced a team that was in better shape; they never faced a team with more talent; they never faced a team with a better quarterback.

More importantly, they never faced a team that wanted it more than they did.

There were big stars and little stars, role players and big-play players. If somebody messed up, there were always two or three players there ready to pick him up. Need a big touchdown? Thirteen different players scored touchdowns. Need a big sack? Thirteen players logged sacks. Need a clutch field goal? Wes Byrum was 15 of 19 on field goal attempts.

This was a special team that had a special season with a 13-0 record and a Southeastern Conference championship. The Tigers always played with resolve, which came in handy when they fell behind against Clemson, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

No lead? No panic, no problem.

"We tell them every week there's

Photo by R.D. Moore

storms you'll have to weather in every game," Chizik said.

"Some storms obviously are worse than others. We told them that going into the Alabama game, that there's going to be a storm in this game that could be pretty violent and we're going to have to weather that storm. And they hear that and they understand that.

"Watching them down on the field, there isn't any panic. I think part of the reason is because we've had to do it so many times this year. ... I prefer not to be in that position. But when you get in that position, it's comforting to know that we do have the ability and the confidence to be able to come back and win a game," Chizik added.

"I've never quite been around any group of guys that has that resolve and the ability to do that week in, week out. I've never really seen it done this many times, to be honest with you."

Newton and the offense gave everyone a preview of the season when it rolled up 608 yards against Arkansas State in the opener, but things got a little tougher the following week in a Thursday night game at Mississippi State.

Auburn led 17-7 at the half, but State scored a touchdown on the first possession of the second half. That's when the Auburn defense, especially Nick Fairley, stepped up.

He wound up with five tackles, including 2.5 for loss and 1.5 sacks. He recovered a fumble, intercepted a pass and had three quarterback hurries. How's that as a signal that he would become the most feared defensive lineman in the country?

With clanging cowbells as a thunderous backdrop, the defense held Mississippi State out of the end zone to preserve the 17-14 win.

The following week, the Tigers fell behind Clemson 17-0 in Jordan-Hare Stadium. Not to worry. Auburn scored a field goal just before the half and then put up 21 third-quarter points to take the lead. Clemson tied it early in the fourth quarter and that's the way in stayed until overtime.

Byrum kicked a 39-yard field goal and Clemson's Chandler Catanzaro seemingly answered with a 24-yarder, but Clemson was penalized for illegal procedure. Catanzaro then missed the kick from 29 yards, handing Auburn a thrilling overtime victory.

Byrum would be called on to do his part again three games later after Auburn had beaten South Carolina 35-27 and Louisiana-Monroe 52-3 to go 5-0.

With the Tigers tied at 34 with Kentucky, Auburn put together its longest drive of the season in the final 7:22, moving from its 7-yard line to the Kentucky 7-yard line on 18 plays. Auburn called on Byrum for the 19th play, a 24-yard field goal attempt that split the uprights as time ran out.

Photo by R.D. Moore

Auburn 2010 Results

Date	Opponent	Result	Score
Sept. 4	Arkansas State	W	52-26
Sept. 9	at Mississippi State	W	17-14
Sept. 18	Clemson	W	27-24
Sept. 25	South Carolina	W	35-27
Oct. 2	Louisiana-Monroe	W	52-3
Oct. 9	at Kentucky	W	37-34
Oct. 16	Arkansas	W	65-43
Oct. 23	LSU	W	24-17
Oct. 30	at Mississippi	W	51-31
Nov. 6	Chattanooga	W	62-24
Nov. 13	Georgia	W	49-31
Nov. 26	at Alabama	W	28-27
Dec. 4	South Carolina	W	56-17

After a surprising 65-43 win over Arkansas in which the Tigers set a record for their most points ever in an SEC game, Auburn was locked in a 17-17 tie in the fourth quarter against LSU in Jordan-Hare Stadium. But a three-play, 90-yard drive that ended with Onterio McCalebb's 70-yard touchdown sprint down the sideline with 5:05 left gave Auburn its eighth win of the season.

"Once I got around the corner, I wasn't going to let anybody catch me," McCalebb said.

Auburn pushed its record to 10-0 with comfortable wins over Ole Miss and Chattanooga, but then the Tigers fell behind Georgia 21-7 in the first quarter. Again, no problem. They rallied for a 49-31 win.

Then came the classic comeback against Alabama.

The Crimson Tide led 24-0 in the second quarter, but Newton ignited the dramatic comeback that led to a 28-27 win.

"That was a game that will certainly go down in history," Chizik said after the win.

Throughout this magical season, Auburn rallied for eight come-from-behind victories, four of them when the Tigers trailed by double-digits.

Newton was, from start to finish, the best player in college football. He set Auburn single-season records for touchdown responsibility with 49 (which is more touchdowns than 86 FBS teams scored), touchdowns scored with 21, touchdown passes with 28 and single-season total offense with 3,998 yards.

Fairley enters the BCS Championship Game with 55 tackles, 10.5 sacks and 21 tackles for loss.

Newton and Fairley? Both players might barely have been known to casual college football fans before the season. Now, they have led the way in a magical season in which, as Auburn likes to say, the Tigers went from good to great.

When Oregon Has the Ball

Oregon is a blur, a blend of yellow and green and black and gray and white ... whatever the Ducks happen to be wearing that day. Nobody in the country plays at such a go-go pace as Oregon, the national leader in scoring.

Tempo is just part of the story. Combine the frenetic no-huddle pace with loads of speed, make-you-miss skill players, a veteran line, a tricky read-option spread and a quarterback who knows how to handle it all ... and, well, the only way to slow down the Ducks is to fake injuries on defense before they blow right by you.

Somehow, we don't see Auburn faking any injuries.

The thing is, Oregon has made a living on flat-out wearing you out. That's what they train to do. The Ducks typically get off 30 plays in a 10-minute practice period. They can't be out-conditioned.

Defenses have to defend sideline to sideline and chase the ball-carrier all over the field, rarely getting the time to substitute. In the end, defenses are usually gasping for breath and grasping at air as they try to tackle a speedy Duck.

On the ground

Tailback LaMichael James set the Pac-10 freshman rushing record last season with 1,546 yards, and he already has set the Pac-10 sophomore rushing record this year with 1,682 yards. He enters the championship game as the nation's leading rusher at 152.9 yards per game.

His hallmark is blistering speed, but he's also a tough son-of-a-gun who averaged about 30 carries per game in Oregon's last five contests. Auburn doesn't want to make the mistake of thinking that the Ducks are fancy and finesse; they can be physical, too.

James has rushed for at least 100 yards in 14 of his past 18 games. He has three games this season with at least 227 rushing yards. And the Ducks have a superb backup in Kenjon Barner, whom coach Chip Kelly considers "1B" rather than second-string.

Quarterback Darron Thomas doesn't force the issue with his legs, but if the defense doesn't aptly account for him, he will keep the ball, pulling it back from the running back's belly, as he reads the option. He is neither as strong as ex-Oregon quarterback Jeremiah Masoli, nor as shifty as Dennis Dixon, but he's a nice blend of both.

Through the air

Thomas was supposed to be the "running quarterback" as he competed with "passing quarterback" Nate Costa through spring and fall camps before finally winning the job. That label applied to Thomas wasn't really accurate, but Thomas is.

He has completed 60.75 percent of his passes, earning praise from Kelly for his decision-making and ball security — two tough-to-master areas in this offense. Thomas' favorite target is savvy senior Jeff Maehl, who is a great route runner who will try to find the soft spots in a soft Auburn secondary.

Oregon likes to throw to its tight ends, who often take advantage of the open space up the seam that the Ducks create with their spread-you-out scheme. David Paulson's 17.6-yard average is uncommon for a tight end.

How did Cal hold these guys to 15 points? We joke about the faked injuries, but the real key was great penetration from the front four (which Auburn can certainly get) and manning up in tight coverage on the outside. That meant Thomas had to hold the ball a tick longer while seeing if his receivers could get free.

There is a risk in doing that because Oregon is so great one-on-one, but the concept of daring Thomas to beat you deep has plenty of merit, especially when there's a guy named Nick Fairley crashing the pocket.

— Anthony Gimino

Rushing	Att	Avg.	TDs	Yds	Yds/Game
LaMichael James	281	6.0	21	1,682	152.9 (1st)
Kenjon Barner	80	6.5	6	519	51.9
Darron Thomas	85	5.8	5	492	41.0
Remene Alston	63	5.7	5	356	44.5
Oregon offense	597	6.1	42	3,646	303.8 (4th)
Auburn defense	416	3.5	16	1,452	111.7 (11th)

Passing	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TDs	Yds/Game
Darron Thomas	195	321	7	60.7	2,518	28	209.8 (53rd)
Oregon offense	220	354	7	62.1	2,804	29	233.7 (48th)
Auburn defense	297	474	10	62.7	3,256	23	250.5 (105th)

Receiving	Rec.	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs	Yds/Game
Jeff Maehl	68	943	13.9	47	12	78.6 (32nd)
D.J. Davis	36	410	11.4	38	3	34.2
Lavasier Tuinei	33	321	9.7	33	2	32.1
David Paulson	21	370	17.6	61	4	30.8
Josh Huff	19	303	15.9	57	3	25.2
Oregon offense	220	2,804	12.7	84	29	233.7

Total offense	Plays	Rush	Pass	Yards	Yds/Play	Yds/Game
Oregon offense	951	3,646	2,804	6,450	6.8	537.5 (2nd)
Auburn defense	890	1,452	3,256	4,708	5.3	362.2 (54th)

Scoring	TDs	XP	2ptXP	FG	Saf	Pts/Game
Oregon score	79	72	5	12	0	49.3 (1st)
Auburn allow	40	37	1	13	0	24.5 (54th)

When Auburn Has the Ball

Auburn is one of the few teams with the pyrotechnics to match Oregon, the top scoring offense in the nation. The Tigers have a top-six offense in several major categories and averaged six touchdowns per game.

The Tigers can attack every level of the aggressive Oregon defense. The Ducks haven't seen a quarterback comparable to superstar Cam Newton. At least not since Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor, something of a Newton Lite, carved up the Ducks in the 2010 Rose Bowl.

Newton is built like a rickshaw and, while more accomplished as a runner than a downfield passer, he has plenty of arm strength and very good pass protection.

Auburn's slick play design, built around misdirection and changing looks with formations and personnel, is the brainchild of offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn. With 38 days to prep, it's a lock that Malzahn rolls out a few plays the Ducks have never seen before.

On the ground

Auburn racked up at least 300 rushing yards against six teams in the regular season and rushed 42 times for 238 yards in the SEC title game against South Carolina. The physical offensive line features four seniors and a junior, including dominant left tackle Lee Ziemba. Any and all of the front five can — and likely will — pull to get out in front of the fleet of Auburn ballcarriers.

Newton is 6-6, 250, but he runs with a smooth gait and lowers his shoulder to finish plays, no matter if a defensive end or cornerback plans to greet him. Many of his carries are designed runs, and when he breaks through the second level of the defense, he's almost assured a long gain. The conundrum for the Ducks: He can run over linebackers and run away from safeties.

Newton averages over 300 yards of total offense, and he's in the top 15 nationally in rushing at 108.4 yards per game, but he is only one of three Tigers averaging more than 58 yards per game on the ground. Michael Dyer, a freshman, is a pure runner — literally, as he had only one reception, which came in the opener — who can get to the corner. He rarely gets more than 15 carries in a game, but he nicely complements Newton as a slasher with a burst in the open field.

Sophomore Onterio McCalebb had 225 yards in the first three games, but he shed some of the workload as Dyer emerged.

Through the air

Opposing coaches and players have marveled at Newton's ball-handling. He sells fakes and hides the ball with massive hands and long arms. Because the passing game is built around play-action and misdirection, Newton consistently finds favorable single-coverage matchups downfield. He leads the nation with an average of 10.52 yards per attempt, and 28 of his 165 completions went for touchdowns with only six interceptions.

He leads the nation in passing efficiency with a rating of 188.16.

The Tigers don't have one receiver among the top 100 in receptions per game, but big-play wideout Darvin Adams averages almost 19 yards per reception and had a huge night against South Carolina in the SEC title game — seven catches, 217 yards and two scores.

The Tigers throw frequently to running backs and the H-back, which could keep the aggressive Ducks defense from coming too hard on blitzes or else risk having a running back slip out for a big gain.

But blitzing is what Oregon does — 11 Ducks have at least one sack this season — and sophomore cornerback Cliff Harris (five) is one of three on the defense with multiple interceptions. Harris gets his hands on a lot of passes and had 19 passes defensed. He's super-athletic and explosive when he has the ball.

— Jeff Reynolds

Rushing	Att	Avg.	TDs	Yds	Yds/Game
Cam Newton	242	5.8	20	1,409	108.4 (15th)
Michael Dyer	160	5.9	5	950	73.1
Onterio McCalebb	89	8.6	9	763	58.7
Mario Fannin	61	6.5	5	395	32.9
Auburn offense	602	6.2	41	3,733	287.2 (6th)
Oregon defense	395	4.3	11	1,687	117.6 (16th)

Passing	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TDs	Yds/Game
Cam Newton	165	246	6	67.1	2,589	28	199.2 (61st)
Auburn offense	174	261	6	66.7	2,737	29	210.5 (69th)
Oregon defense	219	411	16	53.3	2,339	11	212.6 (56th)

Receiving	Rec.	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs	Yds/Game
Darvin Adams	48	909	18.9	62	7	69.9 (45th)
Terrell Zachery	37	557	15.1	80	4	42.8
Emory Blake	29	500	17.2	94	7	38.5
Mario Fannin	16	157	9.8	38	2	13.1
Philip Lutzenkirchen	13	137	10.5	26	5	11.4
Auburn offense	174	2,737	15.7	94	29	210.5

Total offense	Plays	Rush	Pass	Yards	Yds/Play	Yds/Game
Auburn offense	863	3,733	2,737	6,470	7.5	497.7 (7th)
Oregon defense	878	1,411	2,568	3,979	4.5	331.6 (35th)

Scoring	TDs	XP	2ptXP	FG	Saf	Pts/Game
Auburn score	73	72	0	15	0	42.7 (6th)
Oregon allow	25	22	1	15	1	18.4 (14th)

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